

SWITZERLAND.

ILLUSTRATED

IN A

SERIES OF VIEWS TAKEN EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK

BY W. H. BARTLETT, ESQ.

BY

WILLIAM BEATTIE, M.D.

GRAD. OF THE UNIV. OF EDIN.; MEMB. OF THE ROYAL COLL. OF PHYS. LONDON;
OF THE HISTOR. INSTITUTE OF FRANCE; AUTHOR OF A RESIDENCE IN GERMANY, ETC

" Que tout plaît dans ces lieux à mes sens étonnés
D'un tranquille océan l'eau pure et transparente
Baigne les bords fleuris de ces champs fortunés,
D'innombrables côtes ces champs sont couronnés,
Bacchus les embellit, leur insensible pente
Vous conduit par degrés à ces monts sourcilieux
Qui pressent les enfers et qui fendent les cieux
Le voilà ce théâtre et de neige et de gloire !
Voilà ces monts affreux célébrés par l'histoire !"

VOL. I.

LONDON:

GEORGE VIRTUE, 26, IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCCXXXVI.

TO THE READER.

THE following Work was undertaken at the Author's suggestion, founded on an opinion, that some portion of the romantic history of Switzerland, combined with pictorial illustrations of the most striking localities, would produce a work not wholly uninteresting to the public. This plan was acted upon by the Publisher with great spirit and liberality. Mr. Bartlett proceeded to Switzerland in order to furnish the series of Views from Nature, which he completed in the course of last year; and, to this accomplished Artist, and to others by whom he has been so ably seconded, the present Volumes are chiefly indebted for their extensive circulation.

With regard to the text, the Author may be permitted to state, that it is not a compilation or mere letter-press description, composed with express reference to the engravings, but the result of experience obtained in repeated excursions—of which he has here endeavoured to communicate the substance—and intended to present a moral and political, as well as a physical picture of Switzerland. Of the twenty-two Cantons, each has been described with more or less minuteness; but, as it often happens that the most striking natural scenery is not the most celebrated in history, it has been thought necessary, at times, to dwell longer on certain localities than their merely picturesque features might seem to require; and again, to pass lightly over others where the engravings may be

presumed to speak for themselves. Thus, historical scenes omitted by the painter, but yet calculated to make a strong impression on the mind of the reader—either as the ancient battle-fields of liberty, or the arena of illustrious deeds—have been detailed with occasional exactitude.

In a word, it has been the Writer's study to invest the subject with fresh interest, and to make it appeal to the intellect while it pleased the eye. Many could have discharged the duty with greater ability, but few, perhaps, with greater diligence, or with a more sincere determination to embody in the narrative a faithful description of those scenes best calculated to convey an important moral.

In conclusion, the Author begs to offer with his own, the hearty acknowledgments of the Artist, to all classes of the reading public, as well as the admirers of the fine arts, for the patronage and approbation with which the undertaking has been so highly honoured. He has also the grateful task of returning, most emphatically, his thanks to the Editors of the numerous periodicals, whose words of encouragement, kindly spoken and in season, have been substituted, in nearly every instance, for the harsher tone of criticism. It is gratifying to add, that the indulgent testimony thus awarded has been liberally responded to by the continental press; and that, in the foreign editions, the Work has met with the same flattering reception as at home.

LONDON,

May 30, 1836.

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

Pp. 121.

	<i>Page</i>
SWITZERLAND.—Introduction ..Passage of the Jura ..Present state, Political and Moral ..Frontiers of Helvetia ..La Vattay ..The Dale ..First View of the Alps ..Descent of the Jura ..Scenery of the Canton de Vaud ..The Lake and Mont Blanc	1—7
GENEVA.—Sketch of the History, Ancient and Modern ..Political Condition ..General Statistics ..Salere ..Geological Notice ..The Lake of Geneva	8—15
GENEVA TO CHAMOUNI.—Valley of the Arve ..Bonnevillle ..Cluse ..Mont Buet ..Valley of Maglans ..Surrounding Scenery of Sallenche ..Moonlight Scenes ..Sallenche to Chamouni ..Baths of St. Gervais ..Lake and Fall of Chede ..Valley of Servoz ..Fall of an Alp ..Mount Grenier ..Chamouni ..Mer-de-Glace ..Montanvert ..Le Caillat ..Hôpital-de-Blair ..Source of the Arveron ..Glacier of Montanvert ..Voûte de Glace ..Original Lines on liberating a Chamois	15—21
THE CLACIERS.—General Description ..Glacier of Bossons ..Mr. Bakewell's Theory ..Saussure's The Granite Rocks on the Salève	22—24
MONT BLANC.—Height ..Saussure's Ascent ..Jacques Balmat ..Maria de Mont Blanc ..Geology of Mont Blanc ..Baths ..The Valley of Chamouni ..Characteristics of Natives ..Hymn by Coleridge	24—32
PASSAGE OF THE TÊTE NOIRE.—Arcenfiere ..Rash Adventurers ..Legend Alpine Cabaret ..Cascade of Barbellé ..The Bulmarussa ..Original Lines	33—34
THE VALLAIS, OR VALLEY OF THE RHONE.—General Description ..History ..Language, Manners, &c. ..Entrances to the Vallais ..Salt Mines of Bex ..Castle St. Maurice ..The Pizvache ..Castlo of la Bâta	35—43
MARTIGNY.—Deluge in 1818, and heroic Conduct of Miners to lessen its effects ..Perforating a Tunnel in the Ice ..Consequences of this Catastrophe ..The Manise Bride ..Original Stanzas	43—48
SION.—Approach ..Statistical and general Details ..Matthieu Skimmir ..Sierre ..Baths of Leuk ..Cascade near Turmann ..Valley of St. Nicholas ..Brieg ..Geological Theories ..Springs (Original Lines)	48—53
THE SIMPLON.—Description of this celebrated Pass ..Dr. Johnson's Route ..Galleries ..Gondo ..Descent into Italy ..Val d'Ossola ..Zoological and Botanical Details ..Pictet's Apparatus for Mineralogists ..Maxims ..Directions and Memoranda for Tourists	53—70
GANTON OF TESSIN, OR TICINO.—Lago Maggiore ..Magadino ..Convent of La Madonna del Sasso ..Locarno ..Historical Anecdote ..Luzino, its Scenery and Resources ..The Val Leventine ..First hostility between Swiss and Italians ..Battle of Giornico ..Statistics and History of the Canton	70—78
THE GRISONS, OR GRAUBÜNDEN.—Characteristic Traits of the Inhabitants, religious Duties ..Description of Scenery along the Misocco ..Cascades ..Castle and Valley of Misocco ..Vegetable Productions ..Fall of the Moesa ..Pass of the Bernardino ..Bridge and Gallery ..The devoted Husband ..Valley of Hinter Rheln ..The Lammergheyer ..The Chamois ..Hinter Rheln ..Land of Tell ..Route of the Bernardino ..The Rhine ..Succession of Cataracts ..Castle of Bärenburg ..Anders ..Gorge of the Via Mala ..Enterprising spirit in constructing Bridges ..Tusis ..Inundations of the Nola ..Village of Reichenau ..Tschamer's Institution ..Chur, or Coire ..Antiquarian, Historical, and Statistical Particulars ..Mineral Springs ..Native Character and Political Condition of the Grisons	79—102
PASSES OF THE SPLUGEN AND ST. GOTHARD.—The Roflia ..Village of Splügen ..Avalanches ..Pass of the Splügen, with Particulars of its Construction ..Anecdotes ..Marshall Macdonald and French Army ..Anecdotes ..Dangers of the Pass ..Muleteers ..Migratory Birds ..Isola S. Giacomo ..Campodoleno ..Cascade of Piannazzo ..Pura, its fearful destruction ..Original Particulars ..Environns of Chiavenna ..Grottoes ..Ruins of Conto ..Botany ..Soil and Climate	102—121
THE ST. GOTHARD.—CANTON OF URI.—Sketch of an Alpine Storm ..Effects of the Hurricane ..Chesnut-trees ..River Tessin ..Gorge of the Platfieri ..Faido ..Airolo ..Ascent of Mount St. Gothard ..Col and Hospice ..Effect of sound ..Dangers of the Tourmente or Snow-hurricane ..Loss of Lives ..Mineral Treasures of this Mountain ..Village of Hospital ..Wreck of a Pine Forest ..Valley of Urern ..Devil's Bridge on the Reuss ..Sanguinary Conflict ..Gorge of Schöllenen ..Valley of the Reuss ..Pfaffenprung, or Fria's Leap ..Village of Amsteg ..Approach to Altorf ..Origin of the Swiss Confederacy ..Tell, Stauffacher, Furst, Arnold	121—130
SCHWYZ, ZUG, AND GLARIS.—Tell's Chapel ..Brunnen Approach to Schwyz Peasantry ..Contentment ..the Curate of la Grave ..Lake Lowerr ..Gersau ..Fall of the Rosenberg ..Destruction of Goldau ..State of Art ..Lake of Egeri ..Morgarten ..Duke Leopold II's Defeat ..Abbey of Einsiedeln ..Pilgrims by proxy ..Lake of Zurich ..Lachen ..Rapperschwyli ..Hutten's Grub ..Storm ..Canton of Glaris ..Soil and Produce ..Scenery beyond Lintal ..The Pantenbrücke Valley and Lake of Clontal ..The Battle of Nafels ..The Plot of Wesen ..The Serenbach ..The Blätliher, or North Wind ..Falls of St. Quentin	131—170
CANTONS OF ST. GALL AND APPENZEL.—Wallenstadt ..Baths of Pfeffers ..Scenery of the Tamina ..Gorge ..Optical Illusions ..Full Description of the Baths, Amusements, Walks, &c. ..Analysis of the Waters ..The Abbey of Pfeffers ..Sources of the Rhine ..Agricultural and Manufacturing Resources of St. Gall ..Conclusion	170—182

N.B. The above Volume will be found to contain—*Historical Sketches ..Statistics ..Society and Manners ..Education, Literature, and Science ..Notes on Climate ..Advice to Tourists and Residents ..Mineral and Thermal Waters of the Alps ..Their Mineralogy, Botany, and Geology ..Biographical and Characteristic Sketches ..Anecdotes and Traditions ..Popular Customs and Amusements ..Picturesque and Religious Sites ..Arts ..Agriculture ..Produce ..Manufactures; with other topics too numerous to be comprised in the Index.*

. The Poetry interspersed in this Volume, unless where otherwise marked, is original

DIRECTIONS FOR THE BINDER.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF VOL. I.

VIGNETTE.

COTTAGE, NEAR THUY, WITH DANCE OF PEASANTS.

	<i>To face Page</i>		<i>To face Page</i>
MONT BLANC, FROM THE JURÉ, ABOVE GENEVA	4	GALLERY OF GUNDO	59
GENEVA, FROM THE RAMPARTS	8	VAL VERDUN, OR DOUTTIN, <i>SOUTHERN</i>	61
GENEVA, FROM COLIGNY	10	VAL D'OSSOLA	62
THE LAKE, FROM OPPOSITE DIODATI	14	TOWN OF LUGANO, FROM THE VINEYARDS	70
CLUSE, ON THE ARVE-SAVOY	15	MAGADINO, LAKE MAGGIORE	71
MONT BLANC, FROM ABOVE SALLANCHÈ	16	CONVENT OF LA MADONNA DEL SASNO	72
BATHS OF ST. GENVAIS	17	LAKE OF LUGANO	73
THE MONTANENT, WITH THE MER DE GLACE, OR SEA OF ICE	19	LUGANO, WITH THE LAKE AND MOUNTAINS	74
SOURCE OF THE ARVEIRON—VALLEY OF CHAMOUNI	20	BELLINZONA	77
GLACIER OF BOSSON	22	CASTLE AND VALLEY OF MINOCIO, LOOKING TOWARDS SOAZZA	81
MONT BLANC, FROM CHAMOUNI	27	BRIDGE AND AVALANCHE GALLERY, ST. BERNARDINO	82
GALLERY OF THE TÊTE NOIRE, NEAR TRIENT	33	MOUNT BERNARDINO, WITH THE HOSPICE AND LAKE	85
COLLE-BALME, LOOKING TOWARDS CHAMOUNI	34	VILLAGE OF SPILUGEN, AND BRIDGE	87
ROCK OF BALMURUSA	37	BRIDGE OVER THE RHINE, NEAR SUVERS	90
THE VALLAIS AND MARTIGNY, FROM THE FORCLAS PASS OF THE "TÊTE NOIR"	39	GORGE OF THE RHINE, VIA MALA	91
THE PIZEVACHE CAUCADE	42	SECOND BRIDGE, VIA MALA	92
LA BÂTIE CASTLE, MARTIGNY	43	GALLERY IN THE TROU PERDU, OR VERLOHREN-LOCH	93
SION, FROM THE WEST	45	FALL OF THE RHINE IN THE ROFFLA	103
RUINS OF THE EPISCOPAL PALACE	47	PASSAGE OF THE CARDINELLI	110
STREET IN SION	48	SCENE OF THE TESSIN, AT MONTE PROTINO	121
CASTLE OF THE BISHOPS OF SION	49	AIROLO, ST. GOTHARD	125
CATHEDRAL OF SION	50	L'HÔPITAL, ST. GOTHARD	130
VIEUX DE VISP, WITH MONTÉ ROSA	51	THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE	133
MOUNT CERVIN, FROM THE VALLEY OF ST. NICHOLAS	53	TELL'S CHAPEL AND THE MEADOW OF GRETLI	142
SCENE IN THE VALLEY OF ST. NICHOLAS	53	TELL'S CHAPEL, LAKE URI	151
BRIEG, WITH THE ASCENT OF THE SIMPLON	55	THE ARBERG OF EINSIEDLEN	163
THE BERNESE ALPS	57	BATHS OF PFEFFERS	177
THE PONTE ALTO	58	GORGE OF THE TAMINA	180
		JUNCTION OF THE RHINE AND TAMINA	187

S W I T Z E R L A N D.

"Ce paysage unique, le plus beau dont l'œil humain fut jamais frappé!—séjour charmant auquel je n'avais rien trouvé d'égal dans le tour du monde!—l'aspect d'un peuple heureux et libre!"—ROUSSEAU.

"THE SWITZER'S LAND!—Where grandeur is encamped
Impregnable in mountain-tents of snow;
Realms that by human foot-print ne'er were stamped,
Where the eagle wheels, and glacial ramparts glow!
Seek, Nature's worshipper, those landscapes!—Go,
Where all her fiercest, fairest charms are joined
Go to the land where Tell drew freedom's bow;
And in the patriot's country thou shalt find
A semblance 'twixt the scene and his immortal mind."—CAMPBELL.

WHOEVER has travelled much, and compared the various attractions presented to him in the course of his peregrinations, will generally be found to admit that if there be any country which merits more attention than the rest, *that* country is SWITZERLAND. He may have traversed the fertile plains of Italy, and become familiar with the vestiges of her ancient grandeur; he may have coasted the "shipless shores" of Greece, and felt his mind kindling with enthusiasm, while he dwelt upon those scenes and associations which have thrown such hallowing lustre over her soil and history; but in both, the contemplation is more or less tinted with melancholy, and the proud memorials of the past exhibited in humiliating contrast with the present. In both the human mind, half divested of its original attributes, groans under the pressure of despotism, or expends its once elastic spirit in trivial pursuits and occupations. Every where he deplores the degradation of intellect, the traces of ungovernable passions, and the baneful influences of a grovelling superstition. This, indeed, may admit of many isolated exceptions both in district and individuals—the

rule, nevertheless, is general. But quitting these, let the traveller enter Switzerland by what point he may, how different is the picture which engages his contemplation! Here the energies of the human mind are presented to him in full operation. Every where he observes the regenerating influence of freedom; the equal protection of rights and extension of privileges; an equable distribution of the public burdens; a strong practical morality; an unwearied industry, and love of independence; united with a patriotism which, from its very intensity, has become proverbial. Here the peasant, fearing no avaricious lord, no spiritual inquisitor, enjoys the fruits of his labour in peace, sweetened and improved by the free and full toleration of his religion.

Although subdivided into so many cantons, and inhabited by a people who present so many distinct features in their customs, dress, religion, language, and municipal laws, Switzerland, nevertheless, furnishes ample proof that she is actuated by one sole pervading spirit; where every canton contributes with friendly emulation to improve her domestic policy, and to strengthen her political relations. Here, commerce is fast extending her ramifications—a process which is greatly facilitated by the medium of her lakes and rivers. Her towns appear like so many national hives, where science, arts, and mechanism are industriously prosecuted, and generally secure independence. In the lower valleys agriculture is carried to great perfection, while the higher are devoted to pastoral purposes, and present to the eye of a stranger a life of cheerful and patriarchal simplicity.

Here also, the business of public education is conducted with remarkable industry and success. Institutions for the advancement of this most important branch of political economy have become universal in the Protestant cantons, where they are liberally conducted, and, under the vigilant guardianship of men whose labours in the good cause do honour to human nature, they may be viewed as the best guarantees of that prosperity which exalteth a nation. Here virtue is not merely "its own reward," but being honoured by public approbation, it is imitated, and becomes an object of generous competition; while vice, kept in constant check by the powerful influence of good example, is but rarely productive of capital offences. Timely reprobation and correction are salutary measures; and the legislative authorities acting upon these principles, and animated by a humane and lively solicitude for the moral welfare of the people, have directed their efforts to the *prevention*, and consequently have greatly diminished the necessity for the *punishment*, of crime. It is thus that, in a moral estimate, Switzerland may be said to take as decided precedence over other nations as she does in her geographical position—the most elevated country in Europe.

Such, briefly, are the moral features of Switzerland; but, that they are universal, is not to be inferred. Religion alone, by its various and irreconcilable tenets, has a powerful effect in their development; and from the Lake of Constance to the Lago Maggiore, the traveller observes many striking contrasts and modifications, and such as, from the distinctions above stated, the reader will readily suppose. But after unprejudiced observation and much familiarity with the country, we will cheerfully admit that there is infinitely more to command our admiration than to provoke our censure.

But as these reflections may appear rather foreign to a work more ostensibly devoted to the "sublime and picturesque" scenery of Switzerland; and as the literary portion must necessarily be brief and limited, we proceed to our task, *con amore*, and shall now conduct the reader through those scenes which may be truly said to embrace whatever is most striking in Helvetian landscape; most characteristic of its peculiar grandeur and magnificence; and on which the struggles and triumphs of a high-minded and heroic people have conferred an especial immortality.

PASSAGE OF THE JURA.

"Salut! pompeux Jura, terrible Mont Envers!"—DELILLE.

ON quitting the plains of France, and passing through St. Laurent on the road to Morey, we behold the gradual development of the Jura mountains, which form the grand and imposing barrier between Franco and Helvetia on one hand, and Germany and Helvetia on the other. As we advance, our attention becomes more and more rivetted by the scenery before us, and the silence of contemplation is often interrupted by enthusiastic bursts of admiration. By degrees every individual feature assumes a more imposing aspect; points less distinct appear to advance; those in advance, to increase in magnitude, till the dwarf seems to shoot up into the stature of the giant, and every step gives additional life and prominence to the landscape.

The Jura, unlike the other and loftier mountains of Switzerland, is clothed from base to summit with luxuriant pine forests. Here, you observe them

advancing in isolated promontories and outposts; there, grouped into a congeries of hills, or shooting up in serrated and precipitous ridges; but towards the base, variegated by intricate and romantic valleys, and labyrinths of rich meadow land, which give striking ornament and relief to the sombre forests in which the whole chain is enveloped. This passage of the Jura abounds in every variety of scenery;—the simple and picturesque, the savage and the sublime, follow one another in such rapid succession, and are assembled in such remarkable juxtaposition, as to defy all description or classification. The ascent is full of interest, and the impression not a little strengthened by the sense of personal risk which the traveller must at times encounter before he can accomplish his task. Winter is the season when it is to be seen in all its wildest magnificence, for then the snow-sledges supersede almost every other vehicle of locomotion, and, preceded and followed by horses and mules in long procession, with a constant tinkling of bells, present at first sight a most novel and picturesque effect.

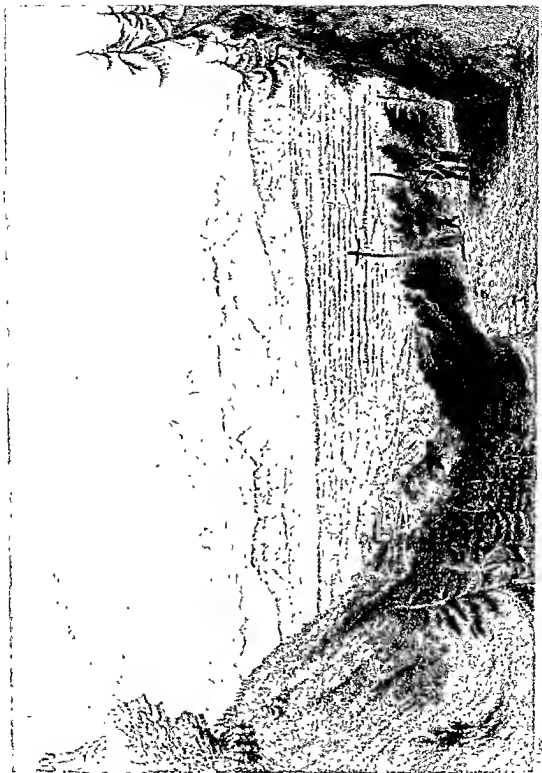
After pursuing for some leagues a steep, rugged, and circuitous route, winding, at one time, along a deep ravine, or the deserted bed of some ancient torrent; at another, under the threatening verge of precipitous rocks, we reach the immediate frontiers of Helvetia.

From La Vattay, a town shut up in the deep obscurity of pine forests, and enjoying most perfect seclusion, a shelving, terraced road conducted us up the Dole,* whose isolated summit presents one of the boldest features in the Jura. Here, at an immense elevation above the valley, a new world opened upon us, and we unexpectedly found ourselves on the almost perpendicular side of the mountain. The pine-covered precipices upon which we stood gave us a full command of the wild undulating forest scenery around, which plunged, as it were, into an extensive plain, where gleaming spires, villages, and chateaux, swam beneath us like a floating cloud. Stretching away in far perspective to the shores of the Leman—from which a pale, transparent vapour crept slowly upward, dilating as it ascended—the vast forms of confused and blending mountains towered range above range in shadowy grandeur: while, loftier still, and lifted into the serene purple of an evening sky, the eternal ALPS burst suddenly upon our view, and, by an irresistible fascination, held us for a time in fixed and silent admiration.

The sublimity of this scene has been acknowledged by general acclamation, and the glowing colours with which it has been invested by the author of *Eloise*

* Or Dolaz—4,000 feet above the Lake of Geneva, and commanding the Alpine Chain to the extent of 100 leagues.

PORT BLANC FROM THE JUNE



are far from exaggerated. It was from a similar point that Rousseau, after his pilgrimage and sojourn in Italy, hailed these stupendous landmarks as the unchangeable features of his country, and gave vent to those powerful emotions which he has recorded with so much pathos and simplicity.—“Plus j'approchais de la Suisse, plus je me sentais ému. L'instant où, des hauteurs du JURA, je découvris le lac de Genève, fut un instant d'extase et de ravissement.. La vue de mon pays, de ce pays si cher, où des torrens de plaisir avaient inondés mon cœur; l'air des Alpes, si salubre et si pure; le doux air de la patrie, plus suave que les parfums de l'orient; cette terre riche et fertile; ce paysage unique! le plus beau dont l'œil humain fut jamais frappé! séjour charmant auquel je n'avais rien trouvé d'égal dans le tour du monde! l'aspect d'un peuple heureux et libre; la douceur de la saison, la sérénité du climat; mille souvenirs délicieux qui reveillaient tous les sentimens que j'avais goûtés: tout cela me jetait dans des transports que je ne puis décrire, et semblait me rendre à la fois la jouissance de ma vie entière.”

“ Who first beholds those everlasting clouds,
Seed-time and harvest, morning, noon and night,
Still where they were, steadfast, immovable;
Those rugged hills so shadowy, so sublime
As rather to belong to heaven than earth—
But instantly receives into his soul
A sense, a feeling that he loses not,
A something that informs him 'tis an hour
Whence he may date henceforward and for ever !”

Whether we dwell upon the picture of beauty expanding before us, or lift our eyes to the glorious frame-work in which it is set, our hearts are strangely touched, and overflow with sentiments hitherto unfelt. Amazement, admiration, and delight, melt and captivate the mind by a new and unwonted impulse, and call forth that homage which perhaps no other scene in existence could so effectually command. It exhibits in one glorious view the divine attributes of omnipotence and beneficence. The first we behold exemplified in those everlasting barriers which every where bound the horizon, and enclose the landscape like a curtain; of the latter we have abundant evidence in the Eden-like valley before us, where every field is fertile, every tree fruitful; where the ornamental and the useful go hand in hand, and where every thing seems to foster life and administer to the luxuries of man.

The unique character of the landscape before us is greatly enhanced by the classic Lemane which occupies the centre, and whose shores, rising as they recede, present an assemblage of features singularly striking and animated. Every where the labours of man have encroached upon the asperities of nature, and left upon all the stamp of his enterprise; while his empire is only limited by that frozen line of demarcation which separates his social existence from the awful solitudes of the Alps.

As we descend the Jura, the scenery which characterises these shores differs materially, and presents itself in striking and mutual contrast. On the Savoy side of the Lake, it is bold, variegated, and abrupt: beetling cliffs overhang, and green promontories jut out into the Lake. Terraced vineyards occupy the acclivities, and corn-fields the vallies and gentler slopes; while towns, hamlets, isolated châteaux, and villas rise in white clusters along the shore, or sprinkle the heights in picturesque and solitary beauty. Beyond these, vineyards and corn-fields merge into green pastures; the cheerful cottage is superseded by the *chalet*; valleys are contracted into deep ravines; orchards are succeeded by ridges of dark pines, and every thing demonstrates a new and less kindly region. Higher still, cataract and avalanche claim undisputed possession: man retires from the vain and ineffectual struggle, and the process of vegetation is suspended. The chaos of the Alps commences, and numerous *aiguilles*, stationed like advanced outposts, lead in lofty succession to the sovereign Blanc, whose unchangeable aspect presents one of the boldest emblems of eternity which the material world can supply. The opposite, or Lausanne side, exhibits nothing of this sublimity; but it offers every combination of the beautiful and picturesque, while at the same time, it is the granary, as well as the garden, of Switzerland. From the Jura to the Lake, though comprising a distance of only three leagues, it embraces every feature that the human eye delights to contemplate—a naturally favoured, fertile, and highly cultivated soil; an appearance of universal cheerfulness and comfort; an industrious and healthful population, fully alive to the blessings of independence, and indefatigable in every means best calculated to render such blessings permanent.

While we slowly continued our descent, the twilight met us from the east, and gave to the already enchanting picture that gorgeous finish, which has called forth the remarks of so many tourists, and excited the admiration of all. Travellers in these and other parts of Switzerland are not unfrequently charged with enthusiasm, and with embellishing their scenes by drawing on the imagination; but where is the imagination that could conjure up a scene fit to compete with that which now opened upon us? Here also, what so often implies

incredulity or exaggeration, was literally true—every thing appeared *à couleur de rose*.

Over the heights above Lausanne, the clouds assumed what meteorologists term a cirro-cumulated form; the extreme edges of which were richly tinted with bright gold, and faded in the circumference into deep crimson. From the bay of Morges, at the same instant, to the rocks of Meillerie, the bosom of the Lake glowed like a topaz; while every white sail crossing the magic circle assumed the same bright livery, till it glided away to the eastward, where the water retained its deep sapphire tint. Looking back on the extreme ridge of the Jura, it appeared to rest on a sky of fire; while the light which now penetrated its recesses, was a new and amusing phenomenon, and played and flashed through its pines in a thousand fantastic coruscations.

In sympathy with these, and as the rich saffron faded gradually from the Lake, the mountains, one after another, and according to their elevation, took on the same glowing tint, which continuing to ascend as the sun went down, gradually invested the side of Mont Blanc, and at last, like a golden diadem, settled upon his head. Of the beauty of the scene which followed, we feel it impossible to convey any adequate idea; and must apologize for having attempted to describe scenes which only lose by description, and impress every writer with a deep and humiliating consideration of his own inefficiency. To all who have been actual spectators of these phenomena, description will necessarily appear irksome and unsatisfactory; but, for the sake of our untravelled readers, we have ventured to record *first impressions*, on crossing the Jura, and if these have been sketched but faintly, they have, so far as they go, been sketched with fidelity. The success of the artist, however, will amply compensate for other deficiencies, and in the accuracy of the accompanying illustration the reader may repose implicit confidence.

“The night descends: but still yon glacier glows

In gorgeous lustre; and its burnished snows

Break forth in blushes, where the sunbeams sleep

With lingering fondness on its rosy steep.

Far up yon Alpine ridge, from deep ravine,

Like forest-phantoms, flickering lights are seen:

There, Freedom's social home—the *Châlet's* hearth

Is warmed with mountain-pine and native mirth;

Whose genial blaze and homely shelter throw

A barrier 'twixt the blossom and the snow.”—COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE.

GENEVA.

"Où on est parvenu à joindre la politesse d'ATHÈNES à la simplicité de LACÉDÉMONE."

VOLT. *L'Hist. Gen.*

THE history of Geneva remounts to a period of remote antiquity, and quotes the authority of Cæsar in testimony of her strength and importance as a town of the Allobroges.* Her strong position, however, was no security against those warlike nations who endeavoured to check the progress of Roman conquest. The town was repeatedly burnt, but as often rebuilt and extended, and appeared to acquire fresh stability and beauty from the very means employed for its destruction.

In the beginning of the fifth century Geneva was distinguished as the capital of Burgundy, but passed, successively, into the hands of the Franks, the German emperors, the counts of Geneva, and then became the residence of prince-bishops, under whose auspices she maintained a long struggle with the neighbouring despots, who were incessant in their efforts to crush her independence. The personal sacrifices and privations to which her citizens were subjected in these contests were numerous and severe; but, actuated by that zeal which looks upon nothing as a sacrifice which is employed in the purchase of liberty, their self-devotion and fortitude increased in proportion to the difficulties they had to encounter. That independence, however, for which she fought, was but a despotism till the beginning of the sixteenth century, when she threw off her episcopal allegiance, along with that of Rome, and became a republic. From this period Geneva maintained a proud eminence amidst surrounding states, and was amongst the first to embrace—what she was afterwards so eminently zealous in consolidating—the doctrines of the reformed church. Thus regenerated, and stimulated to exertion by the possession of civil and religious liberty, she became the nucleus of science, the sanctuary of learned men, a safe retreat from the violence of persecution, and a principal strong-hold of that great moral revolution which the Council of Constance, by its edicts and martyrdoms, had so vainly attempted to crush.

* "Extremum oppidum Allobrogum, proximumque Helvetiorum finibus, est Geneva."



Favoured by these moral and political changes, allied with Bern and Freyburg, and protected by France, her freedom consolidated, and her trade flourishing, Geneva continued to enjoy peace and prosperity till the unprecedented events of 1798 once more overthrew her government. Her incorporation with the French republic, however, was not a measure to which she tamely submitted. In the minds of her enlightened citizens, the atrocities of that period were exhibited in their true colours; but, reluctantly yielding to the force of a system which she had no power to withstand, and, making the inviolable protection of her form of worship, and her religious institutions, with all their endowments and regulations, the subject of solemn treaty, she resigned her independence and became identified with France.

Profiting once more by those events which, by the treaty of Paris in 1814, restored the balance of continental power, Geneva was reinstated in her former government and independence. The first use which she made of her newly recovered freedom was to modify and improve her ancient aristocratic Constitution. This revision was accomplished with equal despatch and judicious discrimination; so that in the month of August in the same year, all civil distinctions were finally abolished under the fresh legal enactment,—That the Constitution should thenceforward acknowledge no patricians, nor privileged classes; and that all the Genevèse, without distinction, should be considered equal in the eye of the law.

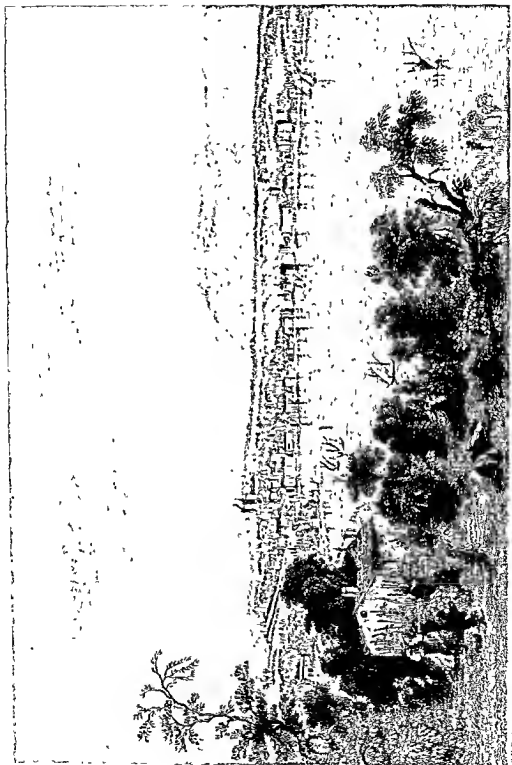
The territory of Geneva, although materially extended by the treaty of Paris, comprises a population of only 18,000, which, added to that of the city, amounting to 24,000, raises the entire population list to 42,000, and in the present year perhaps a little more. This city and territory, nevertheless, possess a power and attraction totally independent of their numerical strength, and to which an annual congress of strangers from every country in Europe hears the most flattering testimony.

Placed on the confines of three great states, on the border of the Leman Lake, and occupying the centre of a panorama of unrivalled beauty and sublimity, Geneva takes an easy precedence over other cities and states, and derives from her remarkable natural position, that importance which neither architectural embellishments nor extent of territory could supply. The Rhone, after depositing the turbid matter suspended during its course through the *VALLAIS*, and as if refreshed by its temporary expansion in the Lake, once more contracts its channel, and, dividing into two branches, rushes through the city with the impetuosity of a torrent. These two streams again uniting, enclose an island which, connected by wooden bridges with the right and left banks, constitutes the city. Here the water is of a bright opal or aqua-marine tint, and

presents a striking contrast to the turbid mass in which it first enters the Lake at Villeneuve.

The various combinations of picturesque buildings harmonizing with the exquisitely beautiful scenery of the Lake, render this the most interesting portion of the city; but with which the march of improvement now threatens to interfere. Great alterations are in progress: a new bridge and a commodious quay, both of elegant design, are in a state of great forwardness; and these, with other artificial embellishments—whatever they may evince as to the prosperity of the canton—will soon, it is feared, obliterate many features in the picturesque and ancient character of the city. To the *utilitarian* this will be a gratifying report; but by the poet, the painter, and tourist, it will be viewed as an irretrievable loss. The grand and imposing features which enclose the Lake, however, are unchangeable by any process of art, and on these all future travellers may reckon with confidence. The houses of Geneva are generally lofty, but to the fastidious eye of taste and experience, they shew, with a few exceptions, but little elegance in design or execution. The Rue Basse, which is the seat of commercial activity, extends the whole length of the city, and offers a grotesque picture in its long rows of wooden shops and sheds which connect the houses with the street. Opposite the Place Metard, where the buildings are lofty and imposing, immense wooden coverings, of singular construction, project from the walls. From this point many diverging streets lead to the upper town, on which the cathedral, the Hôtel-de-Ville, and other public buildings, confer especial distinction. The cathedral is a noble gothic structure, very commanding, and the great ornament of the city. Its modern portico is much admired, and its towers, particularly that called la Clemence, enjoy unrivalled prospects of the Alps, of Faucigny, and Chablais; the Pays de Vaud and Gex; the Lake, and the hill of Cologny which borders it with a rich garniture of orchards and vineyards, sprinkled with white villas, and rising in progressive stages like the grades of an amphitheatre. In the immediate vicinity of this is the promenade de la Treille, which runs along the ancient fortifications—once bristling with cannon, but now richly planted with trees, shrubs, and flowers—and opens in charming vistas upon the valley of the Rhone, the undulating ridge of the Jura, the Salèves, and the mounts of Sion and Voralpe. Here are the Botanic garden, the new Museum, and an elegant line of buildings, called Corraterie, which give quite a patrician air to this portion of the city.

Among the names in theology, philosophy, and science, which have thrown such lustre upon Geneva, we need only cite those of Calvin, Beza, Calderini, Pictet, Saussure, and Rousseau. That predilection for science which conferred



such early distinction upon the Genevèse, is still encouraged, and every avenue leading to knowledge and refinement is beset by a crowd of zealous competitors. The college has twelve professorships, with an annual concourse of students amounting to 600 or upwards. The library contains 50 000 printed volumes, and 200 MSS. It was founded by Bonnard, "The Prisoner of Chillon." Among the MSS. are Homilies of the sixth century by St. Augustine, the wax tablets of Philip the-Fair, besides many volumes of Calvin's Sermons and Letters.

Of the manners of the Genevèse, so much has been written by our predecessors in this route, that we cannot flatter ourselves with the hope of presenting the untravelled reader with many original features. From the amalgamation of interests which took place at the Revolution, and which was greatly facilitated by a community of language, slight modifications in social habits were the natural result, and from this epoch the censors of the day deduce that love of amusement, and that diminution of native morality which a long line of pious divines and virtuous citizens had established by precept and example. During the French occupation, the handsome theatre, built in 1784, and so strenuously opposed by Rousseau, was opened by a regular *corps dramatique* and being supported and frequented by those in power, the contagion soon spread, former scruples were overcome, and, to the no small horror of their pastors and elders, the Genevèse became a play-going people. At the Restoration, however, aided by revised laws and interdicts, this unseasonable gaiety was checked, the gates of Thespis were shut, and those of Solon re-opened. By little and little, the temporary effervescence for pleasure subsided, things began to resume their former channels, and the lighter amusements of France were superseded by grave philosophy and the tranquil enjoyments of the domestic circle. It is not a little remarkable, that in so short an interval the Genevèse should have fallen into the very practice of what had rendered Voltaire so obnoxious at Les Debees. *Soirées* are now the evening's resource, but a predilection for the drama is still felt and expressed; many revert with unfigned regret to the pleasant days of *bagatelle*, and point to the strange anomaly of a city with so many churches and no theatre! "I cannot but regret our want of *spectacle*," said a lady, "most of your *compatriotes* quit us annually at the approach of winter, but, had we an open theatre, we might keep them all!" The drama has been lately restored.

The domestic, like the public system of education, is here conducted with eminent success, and, under parental prudence and discrimination, leads to the most pleasing results. The humbler class enjoy the benefit of a substantial education, and such as may be suitable to the duties they are expected to perform. The ladies in general are highly accomplished, and second to none in

the exercise of all those amiable qualities which give society so many attractions, and throw such hallowing lustre over the recesses of domestic life. In their intercourse with strangers, the men are occasionally charged with unnecessary austerity, with too much rigour in their estimate of manly character, and too much indifference for those minor qualifications and attentions which conciliate good will and promote social harmony. Of these there is certainly some evidence; but the absence of such small currency is fully compensated by those classical and scientific acquirements which give the *soirées* of Geneva their charming intellectual character. But if those who from their infancy have been accustomed to contemplate the sublime forms with which nature is here invested, do acquire an air of habitual severity, or even a disrelish for the innocent frivolities of life, the deficiency has less of fault than merit, and seems neither unbecoming nor inexcusable. Mentally, men are all more or less subject to the influence of external nature; and the mind of him who lives under the shadow of Mont Blanc, may be reasonably supposed to differ in various particulars from his, whose first impressions were caught in the precincts of Mont Martre.

It struck us as a remarkable but very pleasing singularity, that since we had descended the Jura, not one appeal had been made to our charity,—a circumstance which speaks highly in favour of Switzerland, and which it would seem an act of injustice not to record. In Geneva, the charitable funds are most judiciously administered, and industry is so universal, that mendicity seems entirely suspended. We agree with Dr. James Johnson,* that this industry is much connected with, or dependent on, religious and political institutions. The appearance and produce of a country will always be in proportion to the degree of diligence with which it is cultivated; but the poor man who has three *jours-de-fête* out of the seven, has little time for practical industry, compared with his neighbour who has but one. Hence, probably, the very different aspect presented by the opposite sides of the Jura.

The number of strangers who annually resort to these shores, and often fix their residence in or near Geneva for a period of years, seems rather on the increase than otherwise. There is no situation in Europe, probably, where mental cultivation, well-informed society, and domestic economy, are to be had and practised on such eligible terms. This continued influx of foreigners, however, has brought along with it a degree of polish and refinement, which has softened down many of those sharp and original lines which gave such relief, or even asperity, to the Swiss character. To see the native features of the Switzer,

* See his talented work—*The Philosophy of Travelling*

such as the mind has been accustomed to paint them, the reader must accompany us into the more inaccessible and retired cantons, where the people retain all that primitive simplicity which society so soon obliterates, and for which it gives so little in compensation.

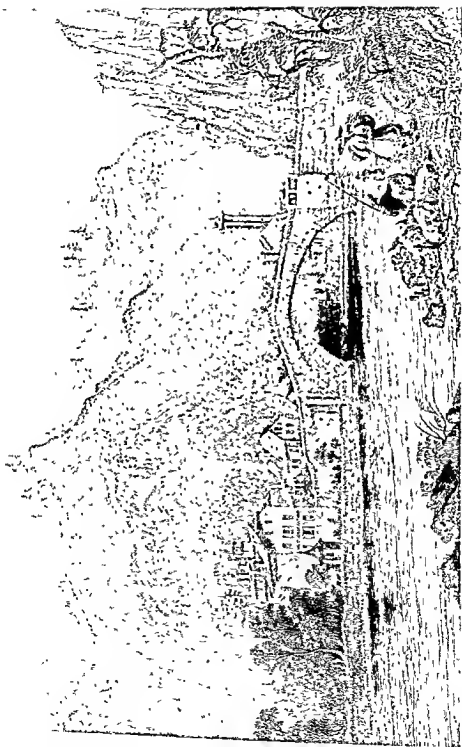
While at Geneva,* we would recommend our readers to pay a visit to the Great and Little Saleve; they will feel amply remunerated for their trouble in beholding one of the most extraordinary phenomena in existence. To the student of natural philosophy it will present a fertile field for geological discussion. These two mountains present their steep escarpments of limestone to the valley of the Rhone, but on the south side slope down to the valley of the Arve. On this side may be seen, not the remains of an ancient city or temple, but the magnificent ruins of mighty mountains, and the monuments of an overwhelming catastrophe which transported the ruins into their present situation. The snow-clad mountains from which they were torn rise majestically to view, though fifty miles distant! On the Little Saleve, at the height of 1400 feet above the valley, are scattered numerous blocks of granite, of vast size, not at all water-worn, and almost as fresh as if but recently torn from their parent mountain. They are of that kind of granite called *protogine*, and identical with the granite of Mont Blanc, while the surrounding mountains, and the Saleve on which they lie, are *calcareous*. On the Great Saleve adjoining, there is one block of this granite, seven feet in length, at the height of 2500 feet above the valley. Saussure has remarked that these blocks are not broken or shattered, as they would have been, had they been hurled with violence from the Alps; neither do the limestone strata beneath present any appearance of having been fractured or indented by their fall; on the contrary the blocks lie upon the surface. Our limits will not permit us to dwell on this most interesting subject, or to compare the theories of Saussure and Mr. Bakewell; the latter, however, is by far the more probable and conclusive of the two, namely, that these blocks were transported by the floating glaciers of the Alps, and not by a sudden rush of waters, as the former imagined.†

A portion of the Jura, which extends above twelve leagues into the Canton de Vaud, comprises many very interesting and romantic valleys. The chain being of inferior elevation, compared with the Alps, and little exceeding, in its highest

* To the contemplative, a walk to the Cemetery of Plain palais will not be without interest, and will awaken the recollection of many illustrious names. The grave of SIR HUMPHREY DAVY is on the second line of No. 29,—the fourth grave from the end of the west side of the Cemetery.

† For much original and highly interesting information on these and other Alpine phenomena the reader may consult Mr. Bakewell's popular work, 4th edition, 1833.





hours, rising in flow to the height of three or four feet above the ordinary level,—an effect which has been attributed to electricity, but which is more properly the result of atmospheric pressure. The greatest depth is near Meillerie, where the soundings have indicated 949 feet.

As a medium of local intercourse and traffic, these waters are every day acquiring fresh importance; and, by the recent launch of steam vessels upon them, a cheap and expeditious method of transport has been established among the long chain of towns and villages by which they are enclosed.

Agreeably to our plan, we now proceed to Savoy, reserving the Pays de Vaud for a future portion of the Tour.

GENEVA TO CHAMOUNI.

"Alpes! Je reviens vous chercher"
Sapins de Mont Cuvier, puissiez-vous me cacher
Dans cõt anstre auré que la glace environne
Qu'entends-je! l'Arveron bondit, tombe et bouillonne! . . ."
DE FONTANES.

"Des siècles autour d'eux ont passé comme une heure . . .
Et vous, vous y venez d'un œil observateur
Admirez dans ses plans l'éternel CRÉATEUR!"
DE LILLE.

On quitting the gate of Geneva, we speedily left her circumscribed territory, and pursued our route along the romantic valley of the Arve. This broad, shallow river takes its source in the glaciers, and, receiving many tributary streams in its capricious and riotous descent, falls into the Rhone a little below Geneva. The country continued open till we reached the precincts of Bonneville, a small but ancient town, with antique towers, when its character was entirely changed. On the left, the Môle rises to the height of 5800 feet, and closes in the valley; while on the right is the bold, irregular mass of the Brezon. Crossing the Arve by a stone bridge, 500 feet long, we proceeded along the left bank to Cluse; and near Siongy, through the rich and redundant foliage, waving along the acclivities and precipices, romantic vistas opened upon the valley; where the river, far below, swept along a broad and boisterous channel, and communicated life and fertility in its course. The lower district is enlivened with scattered villages, while

midway among the recesses, or cliffs, of the encircling mountains, a solitary church or convent started forth like a landmark, and contrasted well with the subjacent scenery. On the left, his fractured precipices capped with snow, and rising to an elevation of 9700 feet, Mont Buet seemed no mean representative of Mont Blanc. Passing the ancient town of Cluse, and entering the valley of Maglans, we were arrested by the Nant d'Arpennas, whose rushing waters were music to the ear, and seemed the only voice that disputed the stern and impressive solitude of the place.

It was on a May morning we entered this beautiful defile, of which Florian has expressed his admiration. A profound, but far from melancholy stillness invested its boary precipices and dark ascending forests,—the whole exquisitely relieved by the vivid tints and flushing verdure of an Alpine spring. The Arve swept by in a swift but smooth current—here losing itself in shadowy foliage, and there stealing suddenly from its retreat, as if it sprang fresh from the earth, and “rejoiced to run its course.”

We reached Sallenche at sunset, and, passing through its streets intersected by ramifying torrents, halted on the green heights above the church. Here, fatigued with the previous walk, we sat down under the delicious shade of a cottage orchard, and, soothed and refreshed by the cool evening air, and fragrant verdure, were speedily absorbed in the contemplation of the scenery around us. Beneath were the towers of Sallenche, with the broad, variegated, and winding valley of the Arve. Above these, in shadowy magnificence, the enclosing mountains seemed to melt away in the sky; while their shattered pinnacles glowed with rich crimson radiance, and all below reposed in the soft purple of twilight. Following the ascending vale, till lost amidst pine-clad ridges, the majesty of the “Alpine Monarch” threw every thing else into shade or insignificance; and with his stupendous retinue of glaciers, icy precipices, and trackless wastes of snow, claimed undivided homage, and in awful pre-eminence overlooked the scene. The same phenomenon which we noticed in our descent from the Jura again presented itself, but, if possible, with a still more dazzling effect. The tint with which the summit was invested approached nearer to that of the ruby, and gradually diminished as we gazed, till at length it entirely disappeared and left the cold cloudless summit starting up in an isolated, snowy mass, into the liquid purple of heaven. Slowly, and as if in obedience to the signal, the evening vapours stole forth, hovering along the river, then dilating and floating upwards, till they threw a transparent veil over the inferior mountains, and delivered them over to the dominion of night. The shades of night, however, detracted little from the dazzling whiteness of Mont Blanc: the blue vapour hardly reached his





girdle, above which, as if fresh moulded and towering in snowy serenity, he stood like a sheeted ghost betwixt earth and heaven

It was now beautiful to watch the stars as they gradually kindled along the blue vault above us. From the cottage gardens, all the mingled odours of an Alpine spring ascended like incense. The night winds began to stir, with increasing breath, the rustling foliage along the cliffs, while the faint but incessant murmur of distant waterfalls, with a broken watchword, or salutation from the town beneath, were all that now interrupted the solemn and increasing stillness. Continuing our stunter and contemplation for a little longer, the scene again underwent a sudden and striking change. The snowy shoulder of Mont Blanc deepened into shadow—but, slowly climbing his eastern pinnacle, the moon threw “her mantle of light” upon the scene, and the mountains, till this instant in comparative darkness, sprang suddenly forth into new existence, and, bathed in silver, and exhibited in beautiful detail, left an impression never to be forgotten.

Sallenche, the capital of Upper Faucigny, is beautifully situated, with considerable claims to antiquity, and an air of prosperous and increasing traffic. The immediate environs furnish irresistible inducements for the indulgence of picturesque rambles, and an ample field for enriching the traveller's portfolio. But the inhabitants are painfully contrasted with their Swiss neighbours, as I present but few examples of that manly independence and domestic comfort which so eminently distinguish the latter. Penury and wretchedness enter largely into the picture, idiots and *cretins* abound, the Catholic religion maintains its spiritual despotism, and the humiliating conviction is forced upon us, that with the increasing sublimities of nature, man retrogrades and sinks in the scale.

From Sallenche to Chamouni, the road is only practicable to *char-a-bancs*, horsemen, and pedestrians. On the right, about a mile from the road, and situated at the entrance of a deep gorge, are the thermal waters of St Gervais, discovered about twenty-eight years ago. The stream is very copious, and rises near the junction of mica slate and limestone, at a temperature of 91° to 98°. Baths, in a singular and quaint taste, have been erected, and are now much frequented, but the locality is wild and melancholy, and has nothing to recommend it beyond the merit of its waters. A short way behind the baths is a remarkably fine cascade, formed by the torrent which descends the ravine. Quitting St Gervais, and crossing the Arve, we arrived at the hamlet, and thence by a steep and toilsome ascent at the lake, of Chede. The scenery by which it is inclosed is highly picturesque, while the triple-crested Mont Blanc was reflected from its unruffled bosom. From this stage of our journey, the valley of the Arve undergoes an entire change passing

from richness and fertility into savage grandeur and desolation. This hitherto broad, shallow stream is transformed into a rapid torrent, and fills the ear with its roar; while precipitous rocks hem it in on both sides, at once protecting and opposing its course. The path traversing the wild and elevated bank on the left crosses numerous brawling torrents, swollen with melted snow, each hurrying to pour its contribution into the general channel. These are what Professor Playfair has expressively termed, "Nature's saws, incessantly at work cutting down the mountains." On the left of this road, at some distance, with an elevation of 6000 feet, arise the stupendous precipices of Mont Varens, from which, in winter and spring, the avalanche descends with awful impetuosity, yaking a thousand echoes and wasting every thing in its progress. On a nearer approach, Mont Blanc unfolds more distinctly his gigantic proportions, and throws his frozen barrier around the wild and dreary waste through which we pass.

Next succeeds the fertile valley of Servoz—an oasis in the desert—where one cannot contemplate without a shudder the ruins of an Alp, which, in 1751, had nearly converted this luxuriant recess into a scene of utter desolation. All the inhabitants fled at the first indication of the danger that menaced them; but their flight was too late to rescue some of their children, who were buried in the ruins. The clouds of dust occasioned by rocks precipitated into violent contact, and the terrific crash which preceded it, led to the conclusion that the disaster was a *volcanic* explosion,—a supposition which was soon rectified by observation, and the effect attributed to its true cause, *éboulement*—a common occurrence in the Alps, as we shall have occasion to notice hereafter. The fall, in the present instance, lasted many days, and the air was darkened with immense volumes of black dust, which extended for twenty miles. A continued succession of reports, like those of cannon, announced the falling of rocks day and night. The fall did not, like that of Mont Grenier, near Chambery, happen at once; for the mountain here is composed of a succession of limestone, resting on sandstone and extremely fragile schist, which are even now yielding to the constant action of rain. A deep excavation under a precipice of limestone, near the summit, observed by Mr. Bakewell* a few years since, appeared to threaten a renewal of the catastrophe of 1751.

Leaving Servoz, the road winds pleasantly through groves of fir to the Pont de Petissier. Here another long ascent commences, which carries us

* For much interesting information on this subject, see his *GEOLOGY*, already referred to, page 13.



S. 1922

S. 1922

to an immense height above the Arve, the latter boiling around the base of an almost perpendicular mountain, whose rugged flank is clothed with pines, many of these blanched with age, or scathed by lightning, and, torn from their rocky hold, are hurled into the foaming waters beneath. The view from this point is peculiarly wild and impressive. Emerging from the dark pines, the path scrambles along the right bank of the Arve, and, skirting the glaciers of Tacconnay and Bossous, shortly opened on Chamouni.

Furnished with excellent and well-informed guides, we left our inn next day, at half-past six, to visit the Mer-de-glace, Montanvert, and the source of the Arveron. To ascend the former, we employed upwards of three hours; and, in our route, passed through pine forests, where the *débris* of avalanches, blocks of granite, and bleached trunks of trees, were assembled in striking confusion. At the fountain of Le Caillet, the torrent of the Arve seemed diminished to a thread, "the bourg like card-houses, and the fields and meadows like the squares of a chess-board, or beds in a flower-garden, embellished with a thousand different shades of green." Struggling onward, through an extremely difficult, though happily not a dangerous, path, we reached the Hôpital de Blair, where the frozen sea suddenly flashed upon us in all its wild and indescribable magnificence!

"Wave upon wave!—as if a flaming ocean,
By bolisterous winds to fierce rebellion driven,
Heard—in its wildest moment of commotion—
And stood congealed at the command of Heaven!
Its frantic billows chained at their explosion,
And fixed in sculpture! here, to caverns riven—
There, petrified to crystal—at His nod
We raised the Alps an altar to their God!"

To contemplate this unrivalled phenomenon in detail, we followed a path bordered with rhododendron, and in a quarter of an hour stood upon the ice. Traversing its surface, several crevices, widening into chasms, of a beautiful aquamarine tint, commanded express attention, and, in addition to their rich prismatic hues, associated fearful ideas of danger, which it requires great caution to avoid. This slippery position cannot fail to remind the stranger of that expressive and popular line,—*Facilis descensus Averni*, and no where else could it be more emphatically applied. These congealed waves, which, from the heights of Montanvert, appeared like furrows in a ploughed field, were now found to rise in abrupt ridges from twenty to forty feet.

Retracing our steps up the Montanvert, we halted at the "Hôtel de Blair," where our basket of provisions formed a very agreeable interlude in our

day's drama. This "*Pierre-des-Anglais*," it will be remembered, served our adventurous countrymen, Windham and Pocock, for a dining-table, after having been the first to explore these Alpine wonders, and to open a new region for all succeeding tourists. If we may calculate on the imperishable block of granite which bears their names, they will descend to a remote posterity, and awaken pleasing associations in thousands of their countrymen.

Hence, descending to the source of the Arveron, we followed the *Chemin des Chèvres*, a rugged path, where the thunder of avalanches and pyramids of ice hurled from the surrounding precipices, give new and appalling features to the scene, and strike the unpractised stranger with dismay. The glacier of Montanvert forms the conducting slope along which these sudden cataracts of ice and snow descend with such unparalleled fury. At such instances, the whole air is agitated by the concussion, and every surrounding object participates in the shock;—the torrent leaps in its bed—the forests shake—the whole producing an effect closely resembling that of volcanic action, and recurring with a frequency increased or modified according to the season.

The first object of attraction here is the *Voûte-de-Glace*, a much more superb structure than the imperial ice-palace of Prince Gallitzin!—such as M. de Brune and our own Cowper have described it.

"No quarry sent its stores
To enrich his walls; but he did hew the floods,
And made his marble of the glassy wave."

This grotto cannot be viewed without astonishment, even by those who have been most conversant with the stupendous and seemingly miraculous operations of nature. Its partition walls, as if cased with the finest pier-glass, multiply and reflect each other in such endless succession, as to produce the most striking illusions, and conduct the imagination through a long labyrinth of gorgeous apartments, such as might embellish the wildest Arabian tale. From every part of this dazzling vault, a continued dropping rain, like the well at Knaresborough, descends with the sparkling purity of distilled spirit, and, uniting amidst huge fragments of granite and blocks of ice, gives birth to the limpid Arveron, which, at the distance of half a league, loses itself in the Arve.

"In ascending the glacier des Bossons," says M. de Bourrit, "we stopped at one of the peasants' habitations, to observe a young *chamois* returning from pasture with the goats:—they had taken it very young at the foot of the Aiguilles, and brought it up with the herd; its horns were just beginning



to sprout, its head was fine, its eyes full of fire, and every movement evincing agility and strength." Providence has formed this interesting animal with such instinctive love of liberty, that it is hardly possible to confine it long: when once convinced of its own strength, it constantly endeavours to escape into the rocks; and almost all the young ones they have taken, with a view of bringing them up tame, have made their escape. The manner of taking them is singular: when the hunter has killed a female chamois, he sets it upon its legs again, as if it were still living, and, concealing himself under it, waits with patience till the kid returns to its dam; he then captures the little struggler and conveys it home to his cabin.

LINES ON LIBERATING A CHAMOIS.

"Freeborn and beautiful! the mountain
Has naught like thee!
Fleet as the rush of Alpine fountain—
Fearless and free!
Thy dazzling eye outshines in brightness
The beam of Hope,
Thine airy bound outstrips the lightness
Of antelope
On cliffs, where scarce the eagle's pinion
Can find repose,
Thou keep'st thy desolate dominion
Of trackless snows!
Thy pride to roam where man's ambition
Could never climb,
And make thy world a dazzling vale on
Of Alps sublime!

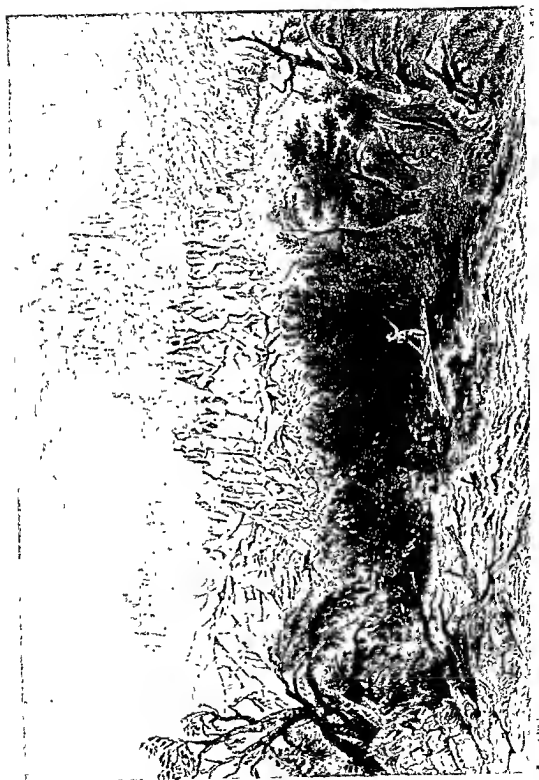
How glorious are the dawns that wake thee
To thy repast!
And, where their fading lights forsake thee,
They shine the last.
Thy clime is pure—thy heaven is clearer—
Brighter than ours,
To thee, the desert snows are dearer
Than summer flowers
Nor kindness, fear, nor love can tame thee—
The desert born!
Then go, where thy free comrades claim thee,
And meet the morn!
There, all thy kindred rights inherit,
And ne'er again
May hunter's guile on thy free spirit
Impose a chain!

THE GLACIERS.

" Prismes éblouissans dont les pans azurés
 Défiant le soleil dont ils sont colorés,
 Peignent de pourpre et d'or leur éclatante masse ;
 Tandisque, triomphant sur son trône de glace,
 L'Hiver s'enorgueillit de voir l'astre du jour
 Embellir son palais et décorer sa cour !
 Non, jamais au milieu de ces grands phénomènes,
 De ces tableaux touchants, de ces terribles scènes,
 L'imagination ne laisse, dans ces lieux,
 Ou languir la pensée, ou reposer les yeux !"

DE LILLE.

ALONG the chain of the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Tyrolese frontier, there are about four hundred glaciers, many of which are six or seven leagues in length, half a league to three-quarters wide, and varying in thickness from one hundred to six hundred feet. Although it is impossible to arrive at perfect accuracy in the measurement of these glaciers, it may be estimated that the space above stated comprises a sea of ice of more than one hundred and thirty leagues in superficies! It is exclusively in the highest valleys of the mountains that all the glaciers have been formed, and where, during three-fourths of the year, the surrounding mountains receive fresh accumulations of snow, which at intervals descends in tremendous avalanches to the bottom of the valleys, where they are collected as in a basin, and form condensed layers, several hundred feet deep. Upon these enormous masses the summer makes but a slight and partial impression, so that with every returning winter their volume is increased, the layers more compacted, and the internal mass expanded by the infiltration of water from the surface. The shape and surface of the glaciers are modified by the nature of the soil on which they accumulate. Where the declivities are inconsiderable, they are smooth and present but few crevices; but where they occupy a steep descent—and every valley of the Alps is a slope—they are scarred with clefts, yawning chasms, and rise in distorted ridges, as already observed in the Mer-de-Glace. If the slope exceed thirty or forty degrees, these appearances are still more remarkable; the beds of ice are disrupted, changed in their shape and posture, and often present the most grotesque and whimsical features. The clefts, which have proved fatal to so many adventurers, are extremely variable in width, but



of enormous depth, and changing as they descend from a beautiful light green to an intense blue. They are occasioned by the rocky or unequal surface over which the glacier progressively descends, the sudden changes of atmospheric temperature, and the brittle material of which they are composed. Nothing can be more awfully impressive than the perfect stillness which, during nine months of the year, pervades these frozen solitudes. But as soon as the incumbent atmosphere has acquired some increase of temperature, and as the summer advances, astounding explosions are heard at intervals, attended with a vibration that seems to shake the whole mountain. These announce the sudden disruption of the glaciers, every new instance of which is proclaimed by hollow thunderings, like the sound of distant artillery, starting the echoes, and overpowering the traveller with the most sublime impressions. From the period and frequency of these phenomena, certain conclusions are drawn by every mountaineer, which are of the utmost importance to his personal security, and serve as a barometer of unerring precision. These atmospheric changes, so frequent in elevated regions, often discharge from the clefts of the glaciers currents of wind, insufferably cold, and loaded with what has the appearance of pounded ice, and presenting the singularity of a snow shower issuing from the earth. These *gletschergeblasen*, as they are called, are readily explained on the principle of sudden rarefaction in the external atmosphere. The wells, which we observe scattered over these fields of ice, are produced by detached masses of granite, which, heated by exposure to the sun, melt and penetrate into the glacier, leaving the vertical aperture through which they descended filled with water. Within the substance of the glacier, as well as on its surface, numerous fragments of rock are deposited, which the storms and avalanches have detached from the higher mountains, and transported to their present situation. On the borders, and at the base of the glaciers, these stones are accumulated in such masses as to form cairns of a hundred feet high. The inferior extremity of the glacier always drives before it that kind of dike which is here called *Nivaine*, and in the Oberland, *Gandeken* occasionally also, isolated heaps of stones are observed in the middle of glaciers, and in the elevated points of the highest valleys, shaped like sepulchral cairns, those on the glacier of Rosboden are the most remarkable, sometimes, on the surface of a glacier—on those of the Aar, for example—you will observe a lofty pyramid of ice, of a regular form, surmounted by a huge stone.

From these circumstantial facts, and in reference to the glaciers as a floating power, Mr Bakewell has offered an apt solution of the enigma respecting

the granite blocks on the Salève. It is remarkable, that these groups occur opposite the embouchures of all the Alpine valleys that open into the great valley of Geneva. Every where, under these extensive masses, the undulating sound of streams, less or more distinct, are heard gurgling beneath our feet, and forcing a meandering channel through the glaciers. When, by some mysterious cause, these channels are interrupted, and their waters denied a vent, their accumulating and increasing pressure become irresistible: their icy boundaries are torn asunder, and the imprisoned torrent, hursting its way through the yawning fissure, carries desolation in its course. An appalling instance of this nature we shall have to record, in our subsequent account of the Vallais.

Such, in a few words, are the glaciers of the Alps—the most striking and characteristic features of those elevated regions—the sources of the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Po, and which dispense such beauty and fertility to the plains of France and Italy.

"Unfailing fountains! fertilizing source,

Whence myriad channels bear their tide of gladness

Through Earth's green bosom: with benignant course

Still scattering bounty where they meet with sadness!

By springs thus spiritualized, Earth drinks new force—

Basks in eternal youth—and, from the madness

Of roaring cataracts, sees her wide domain

Blushing with fruits, and crowned with golden grain."

MONT BLANC.

"*La, le temps a tracé les annales du monde.*

Vous distinguez ces monts, lents ouvrages de l'onde;

Ceux qui des feux soudains ont lancés dans les airs,

Et les monts primitifs nés avec l'univers;

Vous fouillez dans leur sein, vous percez leur structure,

Vous y voyez empreints, DIZU, l'Homme, et la Nature!"

DEUILLE

Nothing short of actual observation can convey any adequate idea of the solitary grandeur and gigantic proportions of Mont Blanc. Neither the strength of imagination, nor the power of language, can depict the vast and overwhelming

subject; there is nothing in Europe between which and this Cerberus of the Alps a comparison may be drawn and description facilitated. The only method by which the untravelled reader may approach to something like an estimate of its transcendent dimensions, is to reflect, that the snowy mantle which envelopes its triple head and circumference, exceeds an altitude of 4000 feet perpendicular and 9000 feet horizontally, from the Dôme of Gouté to the summit; and that the height of the snow and ice, estimated from the source of the Arveron to the summit, cannot be less than 12,000 feet perpendicular—nearly three times the height of Snowdon, in North Wales! The entire height of the mountain above the sea is stated, by De Luc, at 15,304 feet, or 15,662, according to Sir George Shuckburgh; but, according to the "*Ortographie de l'Europe*," in the "*Recueil de Voyages et de Mémoires*," lately published by the Geographical Society of Paris, Mont Blanc is stated at 15,732 feet, English.

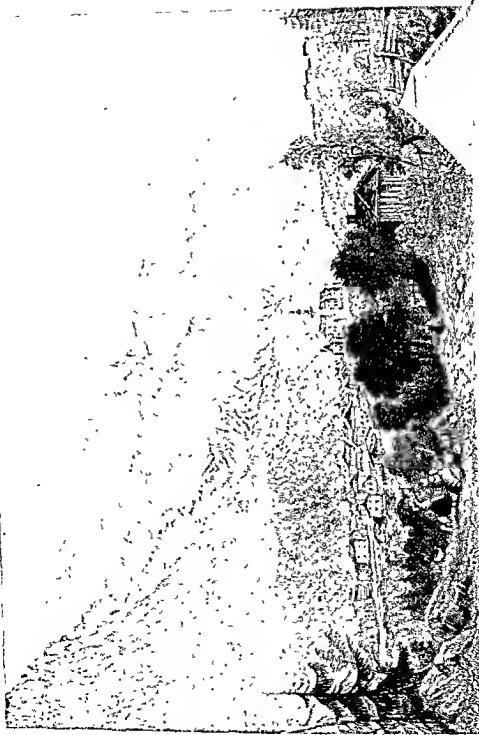
Of the various attempts to reach the summit of Mont Blanc, the first was made in July 1776, by M. Coutteran, and three guides, from Chamouni; but which, like many others that followed, entirely failed. In July 1786, Jacques Balmat, one of six guides of Chamouni, being separated from his companions, who failed in another attempt, passed the night on a spot above the Dôme of Gouté, at an elevation of 12,000 feet above the sea. On his return to Chamouni, he was seized with a severe indisposition, the effect of extreme fatigue and intense cold; but speedily recovering, under the treatment of Dr. Paccard, a physician of the place, he offered, as an expression of gratitude for his attendance, to conduct him to the summit of Mont Blanc. His offer being accepted, they set out together on the 7th of August, and, having completely succeeded in their enterprise, remained on the summit about half an hour. The cold was so intense, that their provisions were frozen in their pockets, the ink congealed in their ink-horns, and the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer sunk to $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. The ascent was performed in fifteen hours, but their return was attended with incredible difficulty, owing to the great debility of sight caused by the reflection of the snow. On their return to Chamouni, at eight in the morning, their faces were excoriated, their lips much swollen, their eyes inflamed and bloodshot, and Dr. Paccard almost blind.

To convey some idea of this tremendous journey, it may be proper to observe, that although the distance, in a straight line, from Chamouni to the summit, was not more than eight or nine miles, yet the real extent of this arduous walk is between forty and fifty; and, owing to the frightful glaciers and endless

circuits which the traveller must encounter in his ascent, cannot be accomplished in less than eighteen hours.

Stimulated by the success of this enterprise, SAUSSURE, attended by a servant and eighteen guides, left the priory of Chamouni on the first of August, in the following year, and began his celebrated ascent. He passed the first night at the top of La Côte, 5000 feet above the Priory. The second day they had to cross the glacier of this name, a very difficult and dangerous passage, owing to the frightful chasms with which it was intersected. One of the guides, sent to reconnoitre, narrowly escaped destruction, being precipitated into one of these traps, but was saved by the wise precaution adopted in fastening themselves together with ropes. As they ascended, the snow was traversed at intervals by prodigious apertures, shewing distinctly its horizontal strata—each corresponding with a year; but the depth was incalculable. At four o'clock in the afternoon, they reached the second platform, and encamped at a height of 1455 toises above the Priory—90 toises higher than the Peak of Teneriffe! Here the guides began the excavation which was to be covered by the tent, and to serve for their night's lodging; but they had scarcely thrown up five or six spadeful of snow, before they were utterly unable to proceed, without resting every few seconds. One of them was in great pain all the evening; and Saussure himself, to whom the mountain air had hitherto proved a salutary medicine, was exhausted with his meteorological instruments. Their thirst, which was insufferable, they endeavoured to allay by melting the snow with a small chafing-dish, but which afforded a very slow and scanty supply to a party of twenty persons. At this elevation no living creature is to be seen—not a sprig of vegetation: it is the exclusive region of eternal cold and silence.

During the night, Saussure, overcome with the close and heated air of the tent, was compelled to seek relief in the open air. He found the moon shining with indescribable brightness in a sky black as ebony; while the planet Jupiter issued, all radiance, from behind the loftiest neck, to the east of Mont Blanc. The light reverberated from this vast basin of snows was so intense, that only stars of the first and second magnitudes were visible. Re-entering the tent, he went to sleep, but was soon awakened by the startling thunder of an avalanche, which swept over part of their next day's route. At day-light they found the thermometer 3° below freezing. Having to dissolve snow for breakfast, and to be taken with them, they set off late; the ascent was every where along the edge of precipices, and the snow so hard, that the leaders of the party were obliged to hew out their steps with



a hatchet. Having arrived at the last rock, the atmosphere was so much rarefied that their strength was soon exhausted. Saussure could not take above fifteen or sixteen steps without drawing breath, and from time to time became so faint as to be compelled to sit down, but, as the respiration returned, he regained his strength, and, at eleven o'clock, reached the summit in perfect safety, and achieved an object which had been the sleepless ambition of many years.

His first impulse was to turn his eyes on Chamouni, where his wife and two sisters were watching his steps with a telescope, and where, at the same instant, he had the satisfaction to see the banner hoisted as the signal, previously agreed upon, that their fears were suspended by discovering his safe arrival on the highest pinnacle of the old world. Here, one view cleared up what years of labour had not been able to solve to his satisfaction. The tent was erected, and the table and philosophical apparatus set before him, but, in preparing his experiments, he was compelled every few seconds to pause for breath. So long as he continued perfectly at rest, he felt little or no inconvenience, except a sensation of nausea at the stomach, but the instant he exerted himself, especially in stooping, his respiratory functions became almost suspended and compelled him to gasp for several minutes like a person struggling with asthma.

Saussure and his party continued on the summit till half past three in the afternoon, having had four hours and a half for making several most interesting experiments. The descent to the first platform was very difficult, steep, and appalling, owing to the brilliancy with which the precipices were lighted up. They again reposed on the snow, about 200 toises lower than the preceding night, and were now satisfied that it was the rarefaction of the atmosphere, and not fatigue, which had so painfully incommoded them on the summit. Here they supped with appetite, and Saussure made his observations without inconvenience. He assigns 1900 toises as the height at which his respiration becomes painfully obstructed. The following day they recrossed the glacier of La Côte, observing fresh chasms opened during their expedition, and about mid day reached the Priory, amid the tumultuous greeting of a numerous crowd of anxious friends and spectators. The extreme fatigue and exhaustion which Saussure experienced in this ascent is supposed, and with great probability, to have abridged his days. It may amuse the reader to be told that, during his excursions in the Alps, Saussure wore a full dress scarlet coat and gold laced hat. He relates that, while he was seated on Mont Breven, the lace of his hat attracted the electric fluid from a passing cloud and occasioned a hissing sound.

In the same month, the following year, M. Bourrit and his son, accompanied by Mr. Woodley, and Herr Camper, set out on the same expedition; but, being dispersed by a storm, only M. Bourrit, his son, and three guides, reached the summit. Mr. Woodley, and the other guides, returned to Chamouni with their hands and feet frozen. Their leader, M. Bourrit, also had nearly lost the use of his limbs, and was only restored by washing for thirteen days in ice-water. The next year another English gentleman, named Beaufoy, made the attempt, and succeeded, but at the expense of severe suffering. Three years later, the perilous expedition was revived by four other Englishmen, but failed. One of the guides was killed, another broke his leg, and the gentlemen themselves were all severely wounded. On the 10th of August, 1802, M. Forneret, of Lausanne, and a M. d'Ortern, accompanied by seven guides, reached the summit, and returned in safety to Chamouni, after encountering a severe storm, but declared that nothing should ever tempt them to repeat the frolic! In August 1808, the intrepid Jacques Balmat once more scaled these tremendous boundaries, and carried with him fifteen inhabitants of Chamouni, among whom was a female adventurer, who still enjoys the distinction of Maria de Mont Blanc. In 1820, the attempt of Dr. Hamel, of Geneva, was another failure, attended with the melancholy loss of three guides, who perished in an avalanche near the summit.

Among the more recent instances, is the ascent of Dr. E. Clark and Captain Sherwin, in August 1825, which the latter has narrated, with much interesting precision, in the *New Monthly Magazine*. During the descent, a pleasing incident occurred, which is thus told: Towards one o'clock, at a still elevated point, we suddenly espied, under the shade of a large fir-tree, a small party with a cloth before them, as if enjoying a repast. On a nearer approach, our guides told us it was Maria de Mont Blanc come to welcome us. She had arranged upon the ground, on a clean napkin, a can of milk, a large jug of cream, and delicious brown bread, and, advancing to receive us, invited us to partake of her cheer. Seating ourselves accordingly on the green turf around this welcome and unexpected feast, Maria, at our request, furnished us with the following particulars of her history:—When she was twenty years of age, her youthful ardour and love of mountain scenes led her to join a party of guides, who were going on an exploring excursion to Mont Blanc. Maria set out in good heart with her companions, and bore her share of the fatigue with a prowess seldom equalled by a female. They continued their march till they had passed the plain of the Grand Plateau, when, in her ascent towards the Rocher Rouge, her strength failed her, and

for some time she could advance no farther. Her spirits, however, were still good, and her companions had too much kind feeling to think of enjoying the selfish pleasure of accomplishing their task without making her a participator in the glory. They admired the fortitude which she had hitherto evinced, and unanimously resolved that Maria should be the first female who had ever stood on the summit of Mont Blanc. They kept their word; and, by incessant exertion, succeeded in placing her upon the pinnacle of Europe. From this extraordinary epoch in a woman's life, she has borne the exalted title of Maria de Mont Blanc.*

By an order of Napoleon, crosses were erected on Mont Blanc, as well as on Monte Rosa. In accomplishing the former of these, old Coutet had the superintendence; and, although fixed with great care, and in a workmanlike manner, in four hours the cross had declined greatly from the perpendicular, and in a few days was entirely carried away by the hurricanes.†

Our remarks on the geology of Mont Blanc must necessarily be very brief. The inference drawn by this intelligent philosopher, Saussure, respecting the vertical position of the beds of granite that compose a principal part of these mountains, is, that they were originally horizontal, and have been subsequently elevated by some tremendous convulsion of nature. The summit of Mont

* "And thus th' ambition of her sex,
To prove the wish and power were ample
To make their path on monarchs' necks,
Selected Marie for a sample."

† The summit of Mont Blanc is a ridge, running east and west, and so narrow that two persons could not walk abreast on it. No rock is visible within a distance of 60 or 70 toises from the top. The surface is a scaly varnish of ice, and of firm consistence. The highest rocks are all granite. Two animals only were seen—one, a small grey moth, the other, a *Myrtilus* butterfly, at 100 toises below the summit. The last plant with visible flowers was the *Silene acaulis*, 1760 toises above the sea—lichens were observed on the very highest rocks: among others, the *Sulphureus* and *Rupestis* of Hoffman. The thermometer, in the shade, stood at 5° 3' below freezing; and at Geneva, at the same hour, 52° 6' above it. At 3 P M the hygrometer in the sun was at 44, that in the shade at 51, at Geneva it was, at noon, at 76.7, from which it appears that the air on Mont Blanc was six times less moist than at Geneva. This accounts for the extreme thirst suffered during the expedition. By the electrometer, the hills diverged three lines the electricity was positive. Saussure was surprised at this, and attributed its weakness to the great dryness of the air. Water required half an hour to boil, whilst, at Geneva, it boiled in half that time, the ebullition was effected at 187°, and performed in a kettle heated by an Argand lamp. The colour of the sky was an intense blue. The wind blew from the north, and was piercingly cold; but, on the south side, the air was mild and temperate. By some interesting experiments on lime-water and caustic alkali, it was ascertained that, even at this elevation, the air was still impregnated with carbonic acid. Shadows were colourless. Smell and taste, perfect—wine and provisions retaining the same flavour as at the foot of the mountain. A pistol fired on the summit was no louder than a cracker let off in a room. Balmat's pulse beat 93, Saussure's servant 112, and Saussure's 100, in a minute. At Chamouni, in the same order, they beat 49. 60. 72. The loftiest points discovered were the Schreckhorn and Monte Rosa.

Blanc, according to the same high authority, must at one time have been more than two leagues under the surface. To the same convulsion he also attributes the position of the escarpments, or steep sides, of the rocks which face Mont Blanc for a considerable extent, and then turn from it in an opposite direction. This would have been the case, had the surface of the globe been broken and elevated in the manner he supposed; and there is a circumstance stated by Saussure which tends strongly to confirm, if not absolutely to prove, the truth of this hypothesis. Some of the vertical beds of rock, adjacent to the granite, contain round pebbles, boulders, and water-worn pieces of the lower rocks. "It is impossible," says Mr. Bakewell, "to conceive that these rounded fragments could have been placed in a vertical position; for, if they be really pebbles and boulders, the beds on which they occur must originally have been nearly horizontal. Now, as these beds are at present placed between others which are also vertical, and in the same range, it follows that the whole have been overturned and thrown up at a period subsequent to their formation." Saussure expressly states, that the boulders in the rocks near Mont Blanc are precisely similar to the boulders on the shores of the Lake of Geneva.

The thermal waters here have acquired considerable celebrity. Baths have been erected, and every accommodation is offered to invalids, whom the virtues of the spring have attracted in considerable numbers. The source is near the junction of mica-slate with the lowest beds of secondary limestone, and was discovered within these very few years.

To examine the valley of Chamouni in detail, would far exceed our present limits; and even to visit its immediate and adjacent wonders would afford seven or eight days' excursions to the pedestrian. Owing to its great elevation, and being enclosed by mountains covered with eternal snow, it possesses a salubrious, but keen and piercing atmosphere. The soil is chiefly devoted to pastoral purposes, but where it is cultivated produces tolerable crops of rye and barley, with excellent oats and potatoes. Flax is raised in considerable quantity, and is much prized for its strength and quality. The melons and honey of Chamouni, the latter sold in small casks, are much prized. The honey possesses a peculiarly rich flavour, arising from the innumerable plants and flowers which thrive at this elevation, and from which it is extracted. This, like other Alpine valleys, owes all its freshness and fertility to innumerable rivulets which descend from the glaciers, and pour in their supplies from all sides, so as to irrigate and preserve the luxurious green pastures in all their beauty. Fruit trees very seldom arrive at maturity in this valley: the summer is short, and the winter so long

and severe, as frequently to destroy even the hardier species of orchard trees

The brief duration of summer at this altitude has suggested an expedient, in common use, for diminishing the great quantity of snow which retards the kindly approach of spring. This consists in scattering a layer of earth over the snow which covers the soil intended for crop, by which means a greater quantity of the sun's rays is absorbed—the snow melts rapidly—and by continuing the operation considerable space is gained, and seed time anticipated by a period of a fortnight or three weeks. In certain parts of Switzerland the same object is attained by spreading black cloths upon the surface of the snow.* The wealth of the inhabitants consist in their cattle, and the independence of each is estimated by the number of cows he can keep through the winter. During the summer these cattle graze over pasture lands common to all the inhabitants, and, in the long winter that succeeds, are housed, and fed on the hay which is made during the few weeks of autumn, and reserved for their winter provender. There is also a fine breed of mules, for the purposes of local transport, traffic, and the accommodation of strangers, and which their proprietors turn to good account during the season for traversing the neighbouring cols and passes.

The natives of Chamouni are a hardy, industrious, and enterprising race, the boldest hunters and the best guides to be found among the Alps. In the latter capacity they are cheerful companions, perfectly versed in all that concerns their immediate calling,—generally well informed on the subject of natural history and Alpine phenomena,—cautious in avoiding danger, but cool and intrepid where it is unavoidable. Collectively they form a society of about forty, and pay strict observance to its rules, every offence against which is punished, according to degree, by fine or expulsion. This society is extremely well regulated, its funds being appropriated to the support of superannuated members, as well as to that of the widows or orphans of such as have perished by unforeseen accidents while exploring these frightful regions. The catalogue of deaths from this cause is numerous and appalling, and no season passes without adding some fresh catastrophe to the list.

The wild animals observed are rabbits, white hares, martens, and ermines, which inhabit the wood, while the chamois and marmot are found in the high

* In order to exemplify the effect that different colours have in absorbing heat Dr Franklin covered snow with pieces of cloth of different colours, at a time when the sun was shining full upon the snow. Having done so, he observed that the snow under the black cloth was melted first, then that under the blue then under the brown while that under the white cloth was very inconsiderable. Hence the effect of black as above described.

rocks: the former are gregarious, and generally frequent valleys where no hunter can approach them. While at pasture a few are always detached from the main body as scouts, while others perform the duty of sentinels. The fearless agility of this animal is proverbial; and in scaling almost perpendicular heights, and bounding from rock to rock, its evolutions seem the effect of wings rather than feet.

In taking leave of Chamouni, and in order to atone for our own imperfect sketch of its transcendent features, we subjoin the *HYMN* by COLERIDGE, written in this valley before sun-rise, and expressed in language of as unrivalled magnificence as the glorious subject it has so vividly depicted.

"Ye ice-falls! ye that from the mountain's brow
Adown ravines enormous slope amain;
Torrents, methinks, that heard a mighty voice,
And stopped at once amid their maddest plunge!
Motionless torrents! silent cataracts!
Who made you glorious, as the gates of heaven,
Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade the sun
Clothe you with rainbows? Who, with living flowers
Of loveliest blue,* spread garlands at your feet?
God! Let the torrents, like a shout of nations,
Answer, and let the ice-plains echo, God!
God! sing, ye meadow streams, with gladsome voice!
Ye pine-groves, with your soft and soul-like sounds!
And they too have a voice, yon piles of snow,
And in the perilous fall shall thunder, God!
Ye living flowers, that skirt the eternal frost!
Ye wild goats, sporting round the eagle's nest!
Ye eagles, playmates of the mountain-storm!
Ye lightnings, the dread arrows of the clouds!
Ye signs and wonders of the element!
Utter forth, God! and fill the hills with praise!"

* Within a few paces of the Glaciers, the *Gentiana major* grows in immense numbers, with its "flowers of loveliest blue."



PASSAGE OF THE TÊTE NOIRE.

"Niente di più maestoso, niente di più imponente, niente di più sentimentale che il passaggio detto del Tete Noire!"

"Above me are the Alps,
The palaces of Nature, whose vast walls
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowy scalps,
And throned Eternity in icy halls
Of cold sublimity where forms and falls
The avalanche—the thunderbolt of snow!
All that expands the spirit, yet appals,
Gather around these summits!" BYRON

At four o'clock we were summoned by our guides, and commenced our progress towards this interesting and remarkable pass. The morning air was cool, refreshing, and charged with fragrance, the valley still wrapt in shadow, but, eastward, the horizon was streaked with a ruddy purple glow, while the extreme verge of the mountain snows, kindling at the sun's approach, offered a picture much too gorgeous for description, while the rush of the Arve, and the various matin notes of birds, fluttering among the sombre but odorous pines, were the only sounds that met us on our way. But at this altitude, every sound was impressive, every object of sight overpowering¹

After an ascent of some length, we reached the hamlet of Argentière—so named from a silver mine near it—planted at the foot of its glacier, the latter running up between large woods of fir-trees which contrast admirably with the whiteness, clearness, and varied colours of the ice. This isolated spot is much more sheltered and pastoral than Chamouni. The sky now brightened, and the peaks of Mont Blanc were suffused with a flood of ruby light, which seemed to be the signal for the peasants to quit their cabins, and return to the labours of the day. As we met, or passed them, a hearty salutation was exchanged, while our guides and they appeared to be on the most friendly footing. Mutual good will is the best passport, and the uniform civility of the inhabitants gives zest to the landscape and the traveller

As we approached the division of the two routes to Martigny, we found the ordinary path by Valorsine blocked up with snow, and were obliged to pick our way to La Tour, as the Col-de-Balme was impassable. It was a striking, but rather painful, novelty, to observe the poor peasants, "forcing a churlish soil for scanty bread," busy clearing away the snow from a patch of ground and melting it with earth, preparing to till and sow in the midst of a dreary waste, while the roofs of their miserable cabins seemed ready to fall in under the weight of snow. Still continuing along a steep track, we reached the higher ground, itself enclosed within fresh acclivities which form the natural barrier between Chamouni and the Vallais. Later in the summer, these heights present a rich greensward, covered with cattle; but at present they were still deep in snow, of which a huge mass, loosened by the sun, was precipitated with thundering impetuosity into the valley, sweeping over its surface, and shaking the soil and atmosphere where we stood. This was a little startling, as we had still to pass several points immediately exposed to avalanches; but the guides, contrary to our personal conviction, assured us there was no danger, and, with their authority in our favour, we continued the route. These swift-winged ministers of fate hung, nevertheless, in awful suspension over our heads, and seemed as if a breath would have hurled them from their stations. The path was steep, difficult, and knee-deep in snow; and in our progress we had to cross the *débris* of several very recent falls, each enough to have confounded the army of Xerxes. Our guide informed us that, while, with others, he accompanied a party of gentlemen across the Col-de-Bonhomme, last autumn, they were overtaken, in the midst of recent snow, by a tremendous tempest, where one of them, rather infirm and overcome with cold and terror, sunk down insensible upon the snow. They shouted for help to a small hamlet not far below them; but before the dying man could be conveyed on a sledge to the shelter of a hut, one of his companions, younger and more athletic, was struck with a palsy of terror, and both were lifeless corpses when the party reached the hamlet. The guides have but too ample and similar details wherewith to furnish the traveller; but their anecdotes are greatly relieved by numerous instances of hair-breadth escapes which all of them have experienced. A melaneboly fact, related by Mr. Carne, may serve as a useful lesson to the rash adventurer on this route. The Aiguille-de-Caton, from the base to the extreme point, forms one vast perpendicular precipice of 8,000 feet, and to appearance is inaccessible; yet there are always some travellers mad enough for any exploits, and it had been a favourite one to climb to the top of this mountain or rather needle.



Five or six individuals, of different nations, were known to have succeeded. A bottle is fastened to the very peak, in which these desperadoes have enclosed their names, and the date of their exploits, thus seizing a claim to immortality. A Saxon gentleman, on his way from Martigny to Chamouni, took it into his head to make this ascent. The guide, a young man, after dissuading him from the attempt, refused to accompany him to the Aiguille: he therefore went alone, attained with great difficulty the sharp summit, and placed his name written on a slip of paper in the bottle, where it was afterwards found. But in retracing his steps, the appalling descent burst at once upon his view in all its horrors; he was seized, as is conjectured, with sudden giddiness, sank helplessly over the verge of the precipices, and rolled down its terrific depths. On the third day he was found, and subsequently buried by some of his relatives at Martigny. The legend annexed relates to a similar catastrophe, and to some of our readers may recall a painful event in humble life.

" Chamouni a daughter, fair wast thou,
Health, love, and beauty lit thy cheek;
Hope sat enthroned upon thy brow—
Thy sparkling glances seemed to speak
Where innocence had found a nest
Within thy pure and spotless breast!

" All praised thy beauty, thou alone
Wast all unconscious of the spell;
And, like a floweret blooming on—
The idol of thy native dell,
A shrine amid the Alps wast thou,
Where lonely pilgrim loved to bow!

" The summer shone—the avalanche
Rushed with its deluge of despair!
And fears that time could never staunch
And shrieks that rent the troubled air
Soon told that, where the deluge rushed,
Thy home, thy hopes, thy heart were crushed!

" Too frail to save—too faint to strive
In Nature's fierce and awful strife
That mountain hearth,—so late the hove
Of fond hopes ripening into life—
Is cold—the frozen *lavan* piled
Where valour wooed and beauty smiled!

" A withered form is weeping there
Whose tears will never—never dry!
Whose cheek is wasted with despair—
Whose morning, noon, and midnight cry

Is—' Take me to thy couch of snow !
My Ellen Rho—my Ellen Rho ! '

" The thunder groans along the Alps ;
The rushing peal on peal succeeds ;
The lightning scathes their hoary scalps ;
The quivering pines are bent like reeds !
Yet louder than the torrent's flow
Ye hear the name of ' Ellen Rho ! '

" The storm is spent ; the evening sky
Has decked with gold the glacier's crest ;
Mercy hath closed the mourner's eye—
That voice is hushed—the weary rest ;
And there, a simple cross doth show
The resting-place of Ellen Rho !

Having crossed the col or apex of this Alpine pass, and gained the shelter of a straggling pine forest, we felt secure from the danger of the *lavanges* ; and after recruiting our exhausted strength with a *goutte* of *kirschwasser*, descended rapidly in the Valorsine, but not without an occasional plunge beyond our depth in the snow, and a painful concussion with disjointed fragments of rock under its surface. In our present state of mental and bodily exhaustion, the little cabaret of the village was a most attractive object, and redoubling our steps we speedily reached its hospitable threshold. Our guide taking the lead groped along a dark, narrow passage, into a still darker apartment, where, in lieu of windows, a huge timber tunnel, rising from the middle of the floor, and tapering to a point, served at once to discharge the smoke and admit the light. At the signal of guests, our hostess started from an obscure corner, and, bidding us an Alpine welcome, conducted us into the " best parlour." This was literally a *sanctum* ; for saints, martyrs, and holy water were its only ornaments, unless we add that of a Sardinian edict posted on the wall. The room, however, was very clean, and our landlady civil and attentive ; so that our repast of eggs, bread, cheese, and wine, after so much fatigue, had the flavour of a banquet,—a banquet such as pedestrians only can enjoy ! The lavanges are the periodical scourge of this romantic valley, and often descend close to the church ; for the protection of which, a strong embankment has been raised on the exposed flank where, literally, " the Church is in danger." This, with the exception of the valley of Sass, is the only Alpine district which affords evidence of volcanic action, in the appearance of certain rocks described by Mr. Bakewell.

When we again emerged from this Cimmerian den, the sun was still high and cloudless, and threw a cheerful and animating influence over our sterile track.



The scene continued to soften as we approached the Trient, which foamed along with "torrent rapture," till lost in the shades of the Tête Noire. Our path was now among shattered groves of pine, with the sun glancing through their branches, and shadows playing fitfully across the greensward. A little farther on our left, and sparkling through dark foliage, the cascade of Barbelle threw up its silvery foam into the air; and, following the course of the torrent, we soon reached the frontier of the Vallais, where a small fort terminates the path. Even this remote and sequestered spot became the scene of strife and bloodshed during the French revolution. The situation is singular and picturesque.

Entering the savage defiles of the Tête Noire, and crossing the torrent on a crazy bridge, we began to climb the magnificent rocky steeps, which, feathered with pine, towered in precipitous grandeur over our heads. Enormous masses of rock, the scattered fragments of some remote convulsion, lay piled in wild confusion; while others hung, like the sword of Damocles, suspended over our heads—

"As if the wakening breeze might sweep
Their slumbering thunder from the steep"

But the "Rock" of rocks, which is the especial glory of this pass, and which no man with the slightest pretensions to gallantry can pass without ejaculating—*Hommage aux dames!* is that which bears the aristocratic distinction of *Lady G—'s rock*—the Balmarussa.

"Said Nature to a favoured nymph,
Of azure eyes and raven tresses,
And cheek transparent as the lymph
That sparkled in her wild recesses—

" 'What bear wile thou?—the mountain's breast
The torrent's bed, obey my daughter—
Wilt pearls and rubies for thy vest?
Or diamonds of the purest water'

" 'What wilt thou?—Here be secret mines,
'T' enchant thee with their magic treasure!
Rich gems, that in their glowing shrines,
With rival lustre wait thy pleasure'

" 'Give, goddess,' said the nymph, 'but give
To empty pride thy gems resplendent,
Baubles for which my sisters live—
Pale votaries of a glittering pendent'

" 'Give me substantial gifts!—Bestow
 Some boon coeval with our planet!'
 'Nay—such thou hast! Wilt more!' 'No—no!
 Give me *ten thousand tons of granite!*' "

As we proceeded, the scenery, if possible, increased in wild and savage features; the defile became more dismal, the rocks more imminent, and enclosing a space which the sun had never visited. In an instant, however, the scene was thoroughly transformed, and the transition brought us to a bright sunny glade, carpeted, like Calypso's isle, with *beau gazon* and interwoven with flowers; but farther on in the season, covered, we were told, with wild strawberries of a peculiarly rich flavour. Through the intervening trees the foam of the torrent at intervals caught the eye, as we wound along the verge which communicated with it by a precipice of 600 feet.

Every object in the passage of the Tête Noire is calculated to produce a most original, strong, and lasting impression; and although varying a little, according to the season, it is always wild in its features, and formidable in the strange and indescribable ideas and sensations which it conjures up.

Certes, it was a fearful path! Enthroned,
 There Horror sat, and scowled with furrowed brow!
 Rocks crashed, streams roared, pines to the tempest groaned,
 Struggled, and smote each other—till each bough
 Was blanched and shattered: then from hills beyond
 Burst the dread avalanche! and where were now
 The pilgrim or the path? The snowy surge
 Has swathed him, and the tempest howls his dirge!



THE VALLAIS, OR, VALLEY OF THE RHONE

" Niuna contrada dell' Europa merita tanto l'attenzione del colto viaggiatore quanto il VALESE : il naturalista, il filosofo, l'uomo di stato percorrono questo strano paese col medesimo interesse. Qui tutto è diverso da quello che si vede altrove, natura diversa, diversi costumi, vi s'incontrano usanze politiche che sono abolite in tutti i luoghi circonvicini; e questa regione sì poco conosciuta è situata tra la Francia e l'Italia, nel centro di tutto ciò che la coltura civile ha di più perfetto "

PROSPETTO DEL VALESE

THE situation of this canton, the character of the people, and the productions of its soil, distinguish it from every other branch of the confederation, and demand a few general observations as we pass through its interesting territory. Placed in the centre of the Alps, it is surrounded on every side by those enormous barriers, and traversed through its whole extent by the Rhone. It is the longest and most considerable of all the valleys of Switzerland, being thirty-six leagues in length, but of a breadth seldom exceeding one league. It has however numerous lateral valleys, which run into the interior of the Alps, and of thirteen that are inhabited, four are ten leagues in extent. These are in the south chain, while in the north chain, which divides it from Switzerland proper, there are four other inhabited valleys, with numerous others devoted to pasture. It was formed into a canton by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. St. Maurice is the only gate by which it can be entered on level ground, and this key of the canton is turned every night like that of a gaol upon its prisoners. The inhabitants comprise two distinct races: those of German extraction, who occupy the higher Vallais, and speak the language of the fourteenth century; and those descended from the Celts, Romans, Gauls, and Burgundians, who are spread over the lower Vallais, and speak a barbarous French, composed of Celtic, Gallic, Latin, Greek, and Italian words. Over these last the former have greatly the advantage, and unite all the characteristics of a free and energetic people. In the lower Vallais no branch of industry has hitherto been introduced. In the management of their flocks and in the cultivation of their vineyards, they are still, as compared with their neighbours the Vaudois and Bernese, in a state of barbarism. Prior to the revolution they were subject to the Bishop of Sion and

the German, or upper districts of the Vallais; but their emancipation has operated less powerfully upon their habits than might have been expected; its ameliorating influences are still prospective, and a great moral revolution must take place before they can in any degree compete with their neighbours. It is remarkable that, with the most powerful stimulus of good example constantly before them, their indolence remains unexcited, their prejudices unshaken, and the shackles of superstition as strongly rivetted upon them as ever. They are the slaves of their priests, victims of their own unconquerable indolence, and creatures of little more than a vegetative existence. The Catholic religion is exclusively professed, and education neglected; and thus ignorance and fanaticism, left without the controlling influence of the one or the enlightening power of the other, are every where apparent, and excite in the observer mingled feelings of disgust and commiseration. The habits of the people are in many instances glaringly repugnant to every feeling of common sense, delicacy, and decorum, and might take precedence of those numerous other causes to which those revolting spectacles so peculiar to the Vallais have been attributed. But of these we shall have occasion to speak in due course.* With all its moral disadvantages, the Valley of the Rhone, nevertheless, is a charmingly diversified country, presenting physically the most beautiful and sublime features, and producing, from an exuberant soil, every variety of fruit, abundant harvests, and a successful vintage. In some districts the corn is cut down in May, in others it does not ripen till October. In one place the fruit never ripens—in another, the almond, fig, and pomegranate arrive at perfection. Such is the climate; so various as to furnish the hardy productions of the north with the delicate luxuries of the tropics. In one day we may collect the common productions of Spitzbergen, and the high-flavoured growth of the Carribees. In a few hours we pass from the shivering skies of Iceland to the glowing sun of Africa, and by the simple process of ascending the mountains or retiring into the valley, we enjoy nature in her most delicious prospects, or contemplate her features in their most appalling form. The Vallais abounds in rare plants; her Flora comprises 2000 varieties, besides about 1000 cryptogamic species.

This country is still imperfectly known, the lateral valleys especially. They have been explored by few if any strangers, and by none who have communicated information of value. It is one of the few fields still open for the researches of scientific men; and were a summer devoted to that purpose it might

* Dr. James Johnson, in the excellent work already referred to, has depicted with great force and brevity, the actual moral, and physical condition of the lower Vallaisans.

be productive of many important and pleasing results. Mr. Brockedon, in his "Excursions," has thrown much interesting light upon the mysterious recesses of the Alps, and made a valuable addition to our previous knowledge of their topography and population. But to the student of natural and political history—to the philosopher, whose proper study is *man*—and to the geologist and botanist, the Vallais is almost unbroken ground, and in its numerous ramifications almost as little known as Boothia Felix or the banks of the Niger. It is gratifying, however, to observe that, since our first sojourn, after a residence in Italy six years ago, many beneficial changes have been introduced, some improvements effected, and a faint spirit of emulation excited, which, by perseverance, may yet work greater miracles in behalf of the people, than were ever recorded of the Bishops of Sion.

"Le Rhone alter m'appelle, et je porte mes pas
Jusqu'à ces monts blanchis par d'éternels frimas,
Où semble s'élever les barrières du Monde!"—LA HARPE.

"I entered where a key unlocks a kingdom."—ROBERTS.

The great entrances to the Vallais are those from the right and left banks of the Rhone; the former, the great thoroughfare from the Canton de Vaud, is by far the most striking, as it commands the Alps, and exhibits the features of the Savoy side in magnificent detail. As we approach by this route the mountains of the Vallais assume a more grand and imposing aspect. The Tour d'Ay, and the Diablerets, where the salt mines of Bex are excavated, command the passage on the left, while more in advance the Dent de Morcles and Dent du Midi, with their eternal mantle of snow, seem as if torn asunder to afford an escape for the impetuous waters of the Rhone—

"Who cleaves his way between
Heights which appear as lovers who have parted
In haste, whose mingling depths so intervene
That they can meet no more, though broken-hearted"

The Castle of St. Maurice, crowning a rugged eminence, closes in the passage, to which its bridge of one bold arch keeps the key. This hardy structure is a monument of great antiquity, and by general consent a specimen of Roman architecture. St. Maurice occupies the site of the ancient Agaunum, and was the place of general sepulture while the Romans held possession of the country. In proof of which the floor of the church was formerly paved with

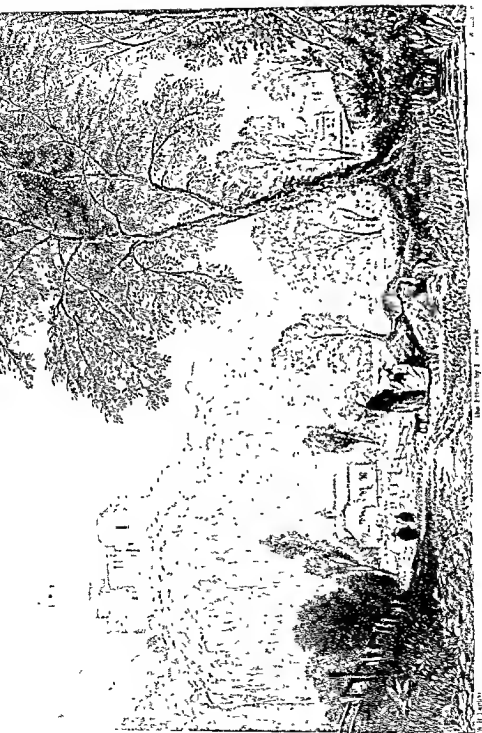
sepulchral marbles, many of which still remain, giving a sufficiently classic air to the sacred enclosure, and perplexing the antiquary by their very short-hand initial inscriptions. St. Mauritius, a distinguished hero in the martyrology, left his name to this place, where a fine abbey was constructed over his bones, in compensation for the martyrdom inflicted upon himself and Theban legion by that imperial manslayer, Maximinian. It is one of the few haunted churches in this country; but whether haunted by Maximinian or the martyr (for it is the scene of both their exploits), we could not learn. Had this happened in Scotland, we should have had all the supernatural in minute detail, and been informed—

“Why his canonized bones, bearded in death,
Had burst their cerements.”

The whole story, however, is a mere monkish tradition and supported by no respectable authority; but it has drawn many pilgrims and much pence to the shrine; and, viewing the lucre, the legend must be respected.

The Pizevache, which breaks the torrent of the Sallenche, and throws itself over a succession of precipices, several hundred feet high, gives striking relief to the scenery between St. Maurice and Martigny; and, contemplated in a bright summer morning, presents one of the most imposing accompaniments which Alpine landscape can offer. At the height of seven hundred feet the torrent first catches the eye by its white line of foam, boiling through a bed of black rock, whence it vaults over a succession of rapids to the brink of the great fall, and is thence precipitated, at a single bound of three hundred feet, into the basin below, tossing its clouds of spray around, foaming and agitated, as if its cauldron boiled over subterranean fires. And thus has it gushed these thousand years, with a rapidity that has never paused, and been received into a basin that has never presented but one aspect of foam and tempest. A small bridge, spanning the torrent, and several Alpine cabins, add much to the picturesque effect, but detract from the natural sublimity of the picture. A beautiful iris throws her arch across the fall; and numerous streamlets, rushing through the rocks in minute, snowy, and fantastic channels, catch the morning rays, and sparkle in such prismatic hues, as to invest the whole picture with enchanting brilliancy. To see these to perfection requires a bright morning sun; for without this important accessory, the tourist will be disappointed, as we ourselves happened to be, who saw it first under a cloudy and tempestuous sky. Under all varieties of season or circumstance, however, it is a fascinating object, and at every visit presents some new and imposing feature. The roar of its waters is peculiarly





The Prince of Wales

deep and full, varying according to atmospheric influence, and meeting and accompanying the visitor to a great distance. It is extremely well situated for the convenience of strangers, as the great road forms the base of the picture and receives a continued sprinkling from the clouds, suspended like snowy exhalations over the fall.

On quitting this magnificent cascade, the Castle of La Bathua, or Bâtie, perched upon a rock, and commanding the village and the pass, is a very picturesque ruin. It is one of the ancient fastnesses which served as an occasional retreat to the Prince bishops of Sion, and, independently of its beautiful position on the Dranse, as it falls into the Rhone, must have been a place of great strength and security. It was originally constructed by order of Pierre of Savoy, whose hatred and oppression of the Vallaisans were deeply felt and resented. From Pierre it descended to the prelates above named, by whom it was employed for purposes very derogatory to episcopal dignity, and became a secret tribunal of a spiritual as well as temporal despotism. The dungeon in the central tower is connected with many traditions of fearful import. To such abodes of darkness and despair the sittings of the *Vehm Gericht* consigned their victims, and it is impossible to contemplate this sepulchre of the wronged and oppressed, without an instinctive shudder—

Le puissant foule aux pieds le faible qui menace
Et rit, en l'écrasant, de sa débile menace !
Je ne veux désormais
Dans les prêtres des Dieux que des hommes du par !

MARTIGNY

As we enter Martigny, the ancient Octodurum, we are reminded at every step of that frightful deluge which in 1818 had nearly swept the whole city from its foundation, and converted its territory into a leafless waste. Memorials of the catastrophe are deeply inscribed upon its walls and many years of repose and prosperity will be required before the inhabitants can forget the shock or the soil recover its native fertility. It was one of those tremendous ebullitions

originating in obvious and natural causes, which in remote ages have dislodged mountains, exploded rocks, and converted the primitive valleys of Switzerland into profound lakes. Although there are no traces of subterranean fires in these valleys except, as already noticed, equivocal evidence in the rocks of Saas and Valorsine, the causes which led to the inundation referred to, continue in silent but active operation, and in their effects are no less destructive than the earthquake and the volcano. The sterility caused by an Alpine torrent, is more incurable than that produced by a stream of lava; the latter may only suspend for a time the process of vegetation, the former cancels it for ever.

For a considerable time the waters of the Dranse—the “Niagara” of the Alps—had gradually diminished, and at length almost disappeared. So unusual a phenomenon, it might have been supposed, would have led to some inquiry into the cause, and to a salutary apprehension of consequences. This however was not the case; the Martignians, like the Catanians, reposed too implicitly upon their guardian saint to fear either man or the elements, and, suspecting nothing, continued, like the Pompeians, to eat, drink, and make merry. At length, in the month of April, some inhabitants, more curious than the rest, ascended the course of the river to ascertain by what cause the water had been interrupted. On farther inspection they found that vast masses of the glaciers of Getroz, and avalanches had slipped from their perch, and falling into a narrow defile between Mont Pleurer and Mont Mauvoisin, had formed an intercepting mound of ice and snow 600 feet wide, and 400 feet high, which was supported on a base of 3000 feet. Behind this enormous and still increasing barrier, the impeded waters of the Dranse had formed a lake twelve furlongs in length. They now took alarm, and adopted immediate steps to prevent a catastrophe which unless speedily remedied was unavoidable. In this emergency M. Venetz, the public engineer, a man of great skill and energy, was appealed to, who immediately undertook to excavate a tunnel through this enormous mass of ice and avalanche, and thus effect an escape for the waters, like the *emissary* from the ancient crater of Alhano. On the 10th of May the enterprise commenced on both sides—the plan adopted in excavating the galleries on the route of the Simplon, and at the height of twenty yards above the level of the water, which, it was calculated, would not exceed this height during the interval employed in the perforation. Every judicious arrangement was made that could accelerate and secure the success of the enterprise; and the work, kept up without intermission by alternating gangs of fifty miners at a time, promised a speedy termination to the gallery, and the vivid apprehensions which the still accumulating danger had awakened. The conduct of the engineer, and the intrepidity of



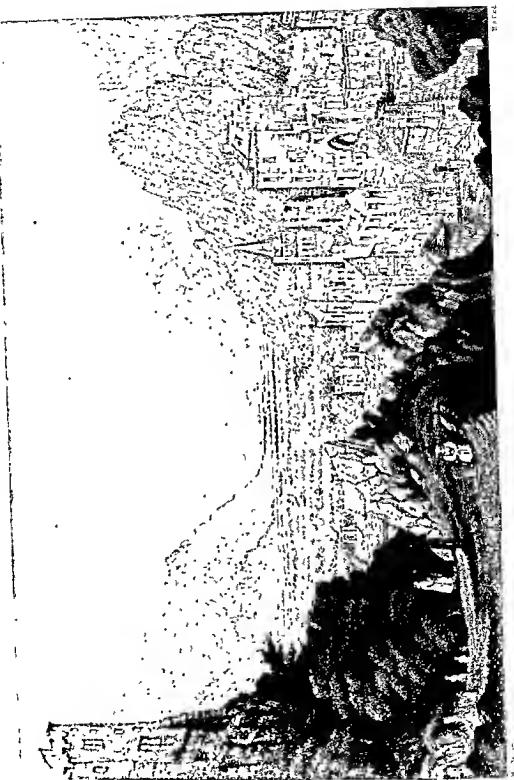
those acting under him in this perilous duty, were above all praise. Night and day they continued at their post, neither intimidated by present danger, nor deterred by the symptoms of inevitable destruction. They acted like men devoted to the salvation of their homes, and threw themselves into the gap with the resolution to rescue their fellow citizens, or sacrifice their own lives in the cause. But it was not the *machinations of a common enemy* they had to oppose, but the dreadful operation of nature, which they could counteract—not by brute force, but by prudence and caution,—a cool, persevering, and intrepid spirit. These virtues were every hour put to the severest test: avalanches continued to fall,—the astounding crash and descent of fresh masses from the glacier, followed by a sudden swell in the waters of the lake, might have inspired terror in the stoutest heart, but each of these brave fellows exhibited a firmness, which would have done honour to a Codrus or a Marcus Curtius, and laboured on with the impression that his life was on his lips, and that each succeeding instant might consign him to destruction. On an average, the lake acquired a daily increase of two feet during thirty four days, but in one instance it rose five feet and threatened, by its vast and increasing pressure, to burst the dyke. This sudden rise involved another dilemma, for if it should exceed the level of the gallery, and the height they had calculated at commencement, their labours were forfeited. Dreadful noises, similar to those which precede an earthquake, were heard at intervals, occasioned by the disruption of solid masses from the bottom of the lake, which, emerging to the surface, floated in detached icebergs, of sixty or seventy feet perpendicular. Superior to all these obstacles, dangers and the continued exposure to a freezing temperature, the men persevered with unexampled courage, and by the 4th of June, had earned the gallery six hundred feet through the intervening mass. Unfortunately, the extremities of the tunnel did not meet in the centre as they had calculated—that opening from the side being twenty feet lower than the external aperture. They accordingly proceeded to sink the upper floor, and establish a thorough communication between the two compartments, but while thus occupied, the lake received fresh contributions from the impending glaciers, and began to discharge its waters the instant the perforation was completed. On the 13th of June the rush commenced, but the diameter of the tunnel was much too small to carry off the volume, and it accumulated to a height of two feet above the aperture. This, however, was speedily remedied, the vibration of the torrent, and its increased temperature from exposure to a summer atmosphere, by dislodging and melting the masses of ice widened the artificial breach, and gave free scope to the impetuous stream. In fifty six hours, the water of the lake had lost thirty feet in depth, and as the floor

of the gallery was every instant lowered by the violent action of the vast body of water impelled through it, there was every hope that a very few days would have reduced the stream to its ordinary level; when a sudden and unforeseen circumstance defeated all their vigilance, and produced fresh alarm and consternation. The cataract, in its descent from the external aperture—a fall of great height—had undermined the projecting base of the dike; and this important buttress gradually destroyed, the resisting force was overcome, the flood-gates burst open, and in half an hour the lake was drained to the bottom.

*"Alors avec fracas il (le Rhône) traîne des ruines,
Il emporte les bois minés dans leurs racines;
Et, soulevant ses flots où d'énormes glaçons
Tombent en bondissant de la cime des monts,
Il retombe, il déchire, il creuse son rivage,
Au loin le bruit de son passage
Fait trembler les rochers, fait mugir les vallons;
De son vaste courroux il couvre les campagnes,
Et va précipiter dans le sein de Téthys
Ces débris orageux en courant engloutis,
Et les débris des montagnes."*

LA HARPE.

In this half hour, five hundred and thirty millions of cubic feet of water passed through the breach—five times the volume of the Rhine, at Basle, where it is thirteen hundred feet broad! Its velocity at first was that of a headlong torrent, estimated at one hundred feet deep, impelled by the vast momentum from behind; and at this rate it continued for thirteen miles, sweeping every thing before it. Charged with enormous blocks of rocks and ice, and uprooted pines, cattle, houses, and, painful to add, human beings, it reached Martigny, a distance of eight leagues, in ninety minutes. Every bridge in its course was totally demolished: that of Mauvoisin, ninety feet above the ordinary level of the Dranse, was no exception; four hundred cottages were swept away, involving a loss of many lives. This sacrifice of human life, so comparatively small, was the result of various precautionary measures, which had been enforced during the excavation. Signal stations were erected; sentinels planted along the heights; watch-fires, and pieces of ordnance ready charged, during the night,—all were prepared to announce any sudden disruption of the dyke. Such, however, was the security into which the inhabitants had been lulled, or such the terror occasioned by the sudden and appalling tidings at last, that thirty-four of them, bewildered, or overtaken in their flight, fell victims to the terrific scourge. The



noise of the torrent was deafening, and as if all the cataracts of the Alps had been collected into one channel, and let loose upon the plain.

Many escaped as if by miracle; and among these, as we were informed, were an English gentleman and his guide, with the loss of their carriage and horses. But for the devoted heroism of the engineer and his band, each of whom merits a statue, the destruction must have been sweeping and conclusive, and the town of Martigny as if it had never been. But as it is, the damage seems almost irreparable; and the actual loss of property during the two hours of inundation, is stated at upwards of a million of Swiss livres—an enormous sum in this country.*

Among the tragic incidents connected with the disastrous night on the Dranse, is the fate of a young betrothed pair, natives of Lavey, and much esteemed by their comrades. On the fatal morning, the lover left his mistress, to make some arrangements at Martigny, previously to their marriage, which was to be solemnized on his return; but this return was for ever cut off by the inundation in which he perished. The shock was fatal to the reason of the unhappy survivor, who still continues her watch, in the fond anticipation of his return. Mr. Roscoe, in his *Annual* for 1830, has introduced this episode in detail, and with striking effect and pathos. The catastrophe has imparted to the little hamlet of Lavey a sympathetic interest among travellers of every class, which no degree of prosperity could have conferred.

"And who is she—that meek-eyed maniac?—Who
That spectre watching by the blue wave's border,
And calling him who answers not? But through
The night cloud on the cliff, in wild disorder,
Loud cataracts dash, and to that maiden's view,
Dreams—bright delusions—have again restored her
The form she doted on! The bridegroom's voice
Calls his beloved one, and the guests rejoice!

"Ha, no—'tis but a phantom! Those fond arms
Embrace a shadow! Him at dawn who parted,
With heart and step so light—chanting the charms
Of his betrothed—a fearful death has thwarted!—
The deep engulfed!—congealed the tide that warms
No lover now! How blessed the broken-hearted
Whose life survives not love! to her whose doom—
The death of mind—leaves nothing for the tomb!"

It is evident, nevertheless, on examining the archives of the hostellerie, that travellers may be sensibly touched by other, and more pressing incidents than

* Vide Broceton, p. 173.—*Bibl. Univers. de Genève, Sc. et Arts.* tom viii p. 291.

even the story of Lavey; and that a "good table and civil landlord" may become the subject of very ungrateful remarks.*

S I O N.

"Le Rhone, dieu de ces climats
Guide dans ces détours ma course vagabonde" EX. A SCHOWALOW.

THE approach to SION—the ancient Sedunum†—is highly picturesque; hamlets, churches, and chapels, scattered along the acclivities, give to the landscape new and animating features, and indicate a more liberal share of luxury and refinement, than is to be met in any other part of the Vallais. The whiteness of these buildings, the rich meadow verdure, and the terraced vineyards from which they project, mutually relieve and enhance each other. The city is built on the declivities of two isolated rocky eminences, which command every approach, and in "its Castled Crags," presents a pleasing and rather formidable aspect. These three heights are occupied by the remains of a castle and two palaces—the Majoria and Tourbillon—which were the fortified residences of the Bishops. Those Prince-prelates were more feared than respected; few were distinguished

* "Why, yes—the *table's* good, I grant ye;
But I, alas! no magic-monger I
Find vintage sour, and viands scanty—
Mahogany's no cure for hunger!

† I grant ye, too, my landlord's creak—
None better loves a guest—or guinea I
But then his *table d'hôte's* the ———
And so good night to thee, Martigny!

† The first view, illustrative of this subject, is taken from the west, looking up the Vallais, and shews the "Castled Crags," and the town beneath, with the Rhone under the mountains to the right. The second view is taken from the broken ground on the hill of Valerie, at the foot of the Cathedral, embracing the ruins of the Episcopal Palace on the right, and the course of the Rhone towards Martigny. The Cathedral is taken from the same spot, but farther back, and looking in the same direction. The Chapel and Castle of the Bishops, taken from nearly the same point, but looking in the opposite direction. The hill, Tourbillon, is on the left, with the ruins of the old Palace of the Bishops. The Street view shews the great Inn on the right.

for the odour of sanctity, but nearly all for their knowledge and use of the sword! They maintained the dignity of the mitre by wearing the casque and while they professed a meek, virtuous, and humble spirit, practised every vice, and countenanced every oppression. Among these mitred champions was the renowned Matthieu Skummir, a great favourite with the *Minnesingers*, and whose merits are still preserved in snatches of mutilated Runic song

' Well could Matthieu tell his beads—
 Well could shive the *frauen-sommer* !
 But better far, hero & deeds
 Became the holy Matthieu Skummir !
 And il us the loud reveillé ran —
 Haste where spear and falchion glimmer !
 In thunder peals from rear and van—
 Shout, for God and Matthieu Skummir ! ' &c

These courts, with the exception of the present *Bishop's* quarters, are now deserted, grass grown, and partially occupied by a few monks but they have witnessed many brilliant fêtes, closing in bloody frays, and public tournament and private treason following one another in rapid succession!

" But, lo the brier I as wreathed the court—
 The nightshade climbs the wall
 And the wild fox doth nightly sport
 Where princes strode in hall !

From this point the view is superb the Alps, in all their boldest outline of rocks, forests, and snowy summits, environ the scene, while the Rhone, winding round a bold promontory, intersects the vale in front, and sweeps along the foot of stupendous mountains, from which torrent and cascade are every instant contributing inexhaustible supplies

The cathedral in the centre of the town, the hospital, and the Capuchin convent, are the chief objects in architectural embellishments, and well worth visiting. The first is a splendid temple, the second a handsome modern edifice, and the convent remarkable for its structural design, strength, and antiquity, and the reputed scene of many political as well as spiritual events. The predominant feeling, however, on visiting Sion, is in the impression of its departed greatness, and the unresisted dilapidation which every where meets the eye. There is probably no city in Europe, where melancholy musings are more apt to be excited by a ramble in the streets or suburbs, and very few where instruction and rational pleasure are of more difficult purchase. Here physical decrepitude,

moral deformity, and mendicity, in all their revolting forms, arrest the stranger at every step. But we do not resume the subject here, after an already brief notice of the hereditary calamity to which the people are subject; but may revert to it, with other topics, in an Appendix.

Opposite the town, on the further side of the Rhone, is a convent, entirely hewn out of the solid rock, and comprising all the appendages necessary to such an establishment,—kitchen, refectory, small dormitories or cells, &c.; but, owing to the dripping from the rock, it has been long deserted.

The situation of Sierre, for society and climate, is seemingly the most eligible in the Vallais; and the preference given to it by those who can afford to retire from busy life, fully justifies this opinion. It is the retreat of many of the wealthy families, and is, on a small scale, to Sion, what Richmond, Versailles, and Frascati are to their respective capitals—combining the *procul negotiis* with the *rus in urbe*. This locality is famous as the scene of popular revolt against Raron, when his chateau here, and the Bishop's fortress at Leuk, were reduced to ashes.*

From this point to Brieg, includes the various and sanguinary scenes of rencontre, between the French and Vallaisans, in 1798; in which the latter, although overpowered by number, and foiled by the superior tactics of their invaders, evinced a fortitude and perseverance that did honour to their cause, as a brave and uncompromising people.

The town of Leuk occupies an acclivity, and is defended by a castle, one of the ancient residences of the Bishops. Its principal attraction is in its baths, which are extensively patronized, and enjoy great reputation in cutaneous complaints. There are twelve springs, varying in temperature, from 117° to 126°. Those of Naters, opposite Brieg, do not exceed 90°; but it is difficult to

* According to an old custom of the Vallais, persons were sent about with a large club, on which a doleful visage was carved, encircled with rods and thorns. This figure, intended to represent oppressed justice, and called by the Vallaisans, the *Matze*, having been brought into an open square, the people soon gathered round it, and one of the boldest, as chief of the *Matze*, advanced towards it, and placing it upright, some of the crowd addressed the figure:—"Matze, why art thou so sorrowful! what brings thee here, Matze!" As no answer was returned, others then said,—"Matze, we will lend thee assistance: shew us against whom. Art thou afraid of Siffenaz? Is it Asperling or Henngarten, who offends thee?" The *Matze*, however, was silent and motionless as before; but when Raron was named, it bowed profoundly in token of assent. They then took the *Matze*, and paraded it from village to village, through the ten districts of the Vallais, saying,—"The *Matze* was going to visit Raron, Captain-general of the Vallais, and afterwards the Bishop of Sion, his nephew, and all his other adherents. As soon as Raron observed the commotion, and the bitter feelings which animated the people, he fled to Savoy, to entreat protection and aid from the Duke. The Vallaisans, in the mean time, reduced to ashes his fine castle, which stood on an eminence, overlooking Siders (Sierre), as also his tower and the Bishop's fortress, which commanded the town of Leuk. All his possessions were destroyed.—*Vide ZSCHOKKE*."



ascertain the exact temperature, owing to their intermixture with surface water. The spring rises under a rock of mica slate, on the right bank of the Rhone. During the great earthquake at Lasbon, in 1755, the ground at Leuk, Naters, and Brieg was agitated by earthquakes every day, from the 1st of November till the 27th of February. Some of the shocks were so violent, that the steeples of the churches were thrown down, the walls split, and many houses rendered uninhabitable. many of the springs were dried up, and the waters of the Rhone observed to boil. At three different times the inhabitants abandoned their houses and fled into the fields, the mountain, above the spring at Naters, opened and threw out hot water. The last earthquake of consequence, in this district of the Vallais, happened in January, 1803, but it has been subject to similar phenomena in every age.

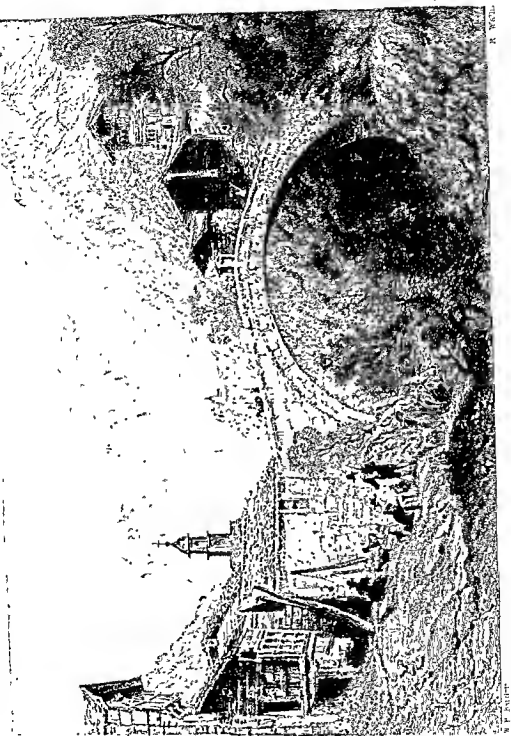
Near Turtmann, we visited a beautiful cascade, little inferior to the Pize Vache, and falling from the lofty grades of a natural amphitheatre, which adds greatly to the effect.

The route continues up the Vallais, but without exciting much interest, till arriving at the bridge of Viege, where the peaks of the Schallhorn, and not Monte Rosa, as is generally believed, are suddenly descried*. The town is situated at the entrance of the Valleys of Saass and St Nicholas. The latter is little frequented, but highly romantic. Quitting the narrow streets of Viege, we followed the course of the river by a narrow but delightful path, winding through rich foliage, and, creeping round the bold edge of the precipices above its rushing waters, reached a small hamlet in a picturesque situation, and crossed the torrent on a high narrow bridge of one arch, with a small oratory upon it†. The path still follows the river, and discloses scenes of increasing interest, till we reach the village of Stalden, in a very romantic position, and consisting of a variety of ancient Swiss cottages, scattered irregularly. To the inhabitants of this secluded hamlet, the arrival of a stranger is an event of rare occurrence. *From this a steep rocky path still ascends the valley, opening upon the most sublime scenery, and just wide enough for one loaded mule, winds through the tangled thickets and hanging pasturages, sometimes sweeping into ravines, down which torrents dashed impetuously to swell the river far beneath.* At length, the magnificent pinnacles of Mont Cervin, or the Matterhorn, came into sight, dazzling the eye with their brightness, and giving a splendid termination to the sublime features of the valley. We made a halt at the base of overhanging

* The View is taken from this point shewing the town on the left, the torrent of St. Nicholas in the centre and Monte Rosa in the distance.

† The View is taken from this point, with the village of Stalden in the distance.



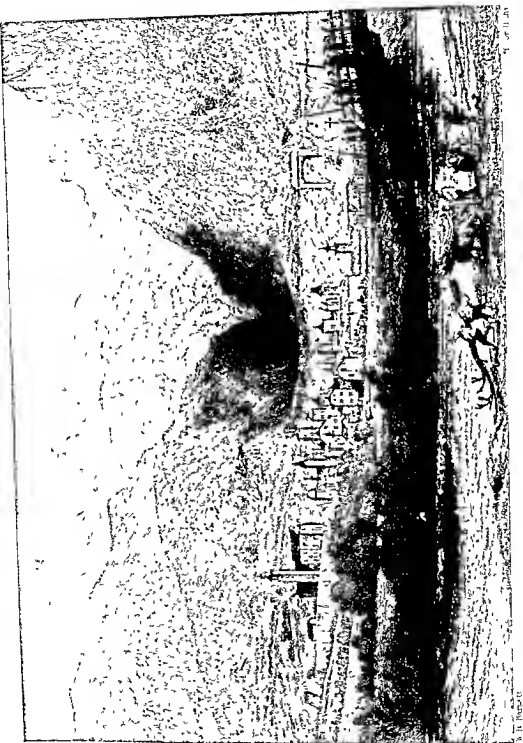


been carried to their *ne plus ultra*, and to have perfected and realized what in a remoter age would have been considered as an idle speculation. It is one of the few achievements of human hands, which imagination can scarcely invest with additional grandeur, and where the reality of the picture justifies the most extravagant anticipations. It was an enterprise, which nothing but the most gigantic ambition could have contemplated, and nothing but the most consummate science, skill, and intrepidity could have accomplished. It seems to address every traveller in the words of Gaillard :—

“Voilà ce que peuvent l'industrie, l'audace, et la persévérance !”

Unlike the wonders of antiquity,—the pyramids, or the great wall of China, the results of mere physical labour, and where nature in a passive state offered small resistance to the operations of art,—the route of the Simplon is to be viewed as the proudest monument of man's genius, where, in continued conflict with the awful operations of nature, his perseverance was attended by incessant peril, and where the fall of rocks, or the rush of avalanches, were constantly threatening his life or impeding his progress. From Brieg to Crevola, a distance of seven leagues and upwards, the wonders of this route succeed one another in rapid detail; but their scale and character are such as no mind, however capacious, can take in at once. They must be seen again and again, in order to be properly understood and appreciated; and the more they are contemplated, either collectively or in abstract, the greater is our astonishment at the means employed and the obstacles overcome. Travellers, in general, pass so rapidly, and with so much facility, from the Swiss to the Italian side, and *vice versa*, that the impression left on their minds is both faint and partial, and retains little of that enthusiastic admiration,—the spontaneous homage of every mind, which, in so stupendous a proof of human capabilities and resources, discovers a refined subject for honest pride and exultation. In every portion of this route, the awful and sublime features in which Nature manifests herself, are conspicuous and appalling, and such as no written description can embody. More than forty bridges,* of

* The principal bridges are the Saline and the Crevola :—“Les deux plus considérables,” says M. Cécord, “pour la hauteur, qui existent en France, et même parmi tout ceux qui ont été exécutés entre Sesto et Glitz, au nombre de 611, tant grands que petits, soit en granit, soit en bois. Les dessins de ces deux constructions remarquables se voient au relief du Simplon que j'ai fait et que j'ai livré au Ministère de l'intérieur pour être mis sous les yeux de Napoléon. Mais,” continues M. Cécord, “ce pauvre Simplon avait du malheur ! Un drôle, espèce de gypier qui travaillant à ce relief dans mon bureau à Genève, m'en escamota les principales dimensions, et en fabriqua pour lui un second qui fut envoyé à l'Empereur Alexandre qui le vit ainsi avant Napoléon ! J'eus tellement d'inquiétude sur cet envoi clandestin, que j'en écrivis au ministre pour en informer Bonaparte, qui répondit :—Si l'Empereur Alexandre a le relief, moi j'ai le Simplon !” —



various forms and altitudes, are thrown from one wild chasm to another, thereby connecting localities, between which no previous communication had ever existed. Numerous galleries, cut through the solid granite—various aqueducts—the grand canal—walls that support and flank the whole of the route—refuges for travelling, and a thousand other objects of surprising labour or ingenuity, complete the vast enterprise, and fill the mind with images of the most novel and overpowering interest.

The glory of having planned, and carried into effect, this more than Herculean task, belongs to the Chevalier CÉARD*. It was commenced by order of Buonaparte, after the battle of Marengo, and completed in 1805. During three years of incessant labour, upwards of thirty thousand men were employed upon it. The road is of a width sufficient to admit three carriages abreast, it shortens the distance between Paris and Milan, by nearly fifty leagues, and, although still exposed at certain periods of the year to avalanches and land slips, the greatest precautions are observed, so as to diminish the risk of any catastrophe from those causes. But, under such circumstances, and in such a situation, human precaution may be supposed to be far from infallible, and it is not long since an English family, consisting of five persons, were swept away by an avalanche, and buried in one of the abysses which skirted the road. In the month of May, 1811, eight persons were precipitated, by a like accident, into the Gulf of the Tavernettes. Similar disasters are related to have happened at various other points, but for the last few years, we were told, such lamentable occurrences have been happily unknown.

We shall now present our readers with an extract from Dr Johnson's very graphic and accurate account of this remarkable route—"Crossing from Gltz to Brieg, the Simplon comes full in view, through a gorge or narrow opening, between two steep and piny mountains—the Gltz horn and Klennen mountains. It is clothed with wood two-thirds up, then presents crags with straggling trees, and last of all, the snow-capt summit. The road first leads up the left hand mountain, through a dense wood of pines, winding rather laboriously for nearly two hours, but still tending towards the gorge or narrow valley that separates it from the opposite mountain, and through which valley the Saltine, a rapid torrent, is distinctly heard in its foaming and precipitous course towards the Rhone. At every turn of this long zig zag ascent, the Valley of the Rhone

* The reader who might be desirous to know more on this subject may consult *M. CÉARD's* very interesting work, entitled—*Mémoire et Observations à l'usage des voyageurs et des militaires sur la Route du Simplon* adressés à M. Dupon, Membre de l'Institut. Paris. Goeury. According to this author, the labours of the Simplon lasted 22 years, the road being merely passable in 1803.—P. 31. The first operations, in the Vallée, commenced Feb. 29th 1801.

lengthens out, and the river is seen more clearly meandering through its plain. Brieg, Naters, Vierge, Tourtemagne, and many other towns and villages, come successively into view, and appear as distinct as if they were only a very few miles from the observer; while the immense chain of Alps on the north side of the Vallais, with the Gemmi in their centre, are ranged along like fleecy clouds but with all their angles and forms surprisingly well defined. The innumerable chalets, cottages, and hamlets, perched in all directions on the steep, rising from the north side of the Vallais, can be traced with the naked eye, while the telescope shows the men and cattle moving about. At length, the road opens on the verge of the precipice, formed by the Klenz over the Saltine, and directly opposite the Glitz-horn, which appears within musket-shot. Here the scene is sublime, and even fearful. It really requires some courage to look from the space between the first and the second Refuge, down into the yawning abyss through which the torrent is dashing from crag to crag. The opposite steep seems so abrupt, that the pine trees appear to grow along a surface as upright as themselves. Here, though not the last, yet the most extensive view of the Vallais, with all its snow-clad Alps, is taken; and the traveller, however excited by the anticipations of what is to come, lingers for a moment in reflections, which the wretched pictures of human nature presented to him in the Vallais had called forth—then surveys, for the last time, the hoary-headed mountains of Switzerland, and pursues his course towards the classic ground of Italy!

"The road from the second Refuge to the bridge, crossing the Kanter, assumes a perfectly horizontal line, under the stupendous brow of the Klennenhorn, and along the face of a craggy and precipitous steep, out of which the road is cut with infinite labour and art. This gallery, as it may be termed, extends two miles; and here was the difficulty of constructing the road originally, as well as that of preserving it afterwards. If ever the Simplon becomes impassable, this will be one of the first places to give way. The whole side of the mountain is a series of loose, or easily loosened, masses of rock, of all sizes, interspersed thinly with pines. Every avalanche, almost every fall of rain, undermines or detaches some of these masses, which go down with thundering precipitation into the valley, tearing away, where they do not happen to leap over, the preservative terraces, or even the road itself! A rock, fifty tons in weight, had just rolled down the steep before we crossed, and lodged on the road, rendering it extremely difficult for carriages to pass; there not being twelve inches to spare between the off-wheel and the precipice. After passing the bridge, where a wild and romantic view of the valley above, as well as of that below, is seen, we ascend in zig-zags up the opposite mountain, through forests of pine, larch, and



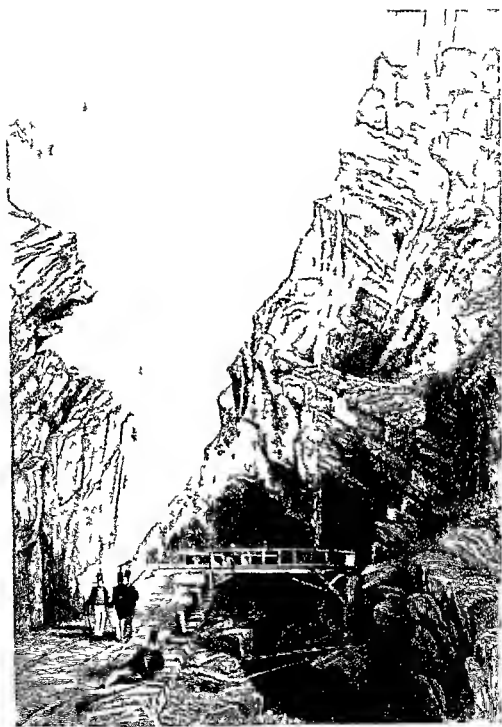
other trees—along the edges of frightful precipices, and under magnificent grottos, hewn out of the solid rock, till we come to the open and barren part of the Simplon, in the immediate vicinity of the eternal snow. Here a picture of desolation surrounds the traveller; the pine has no longer the scanty pittance of soil which it requires for nourishment; the hardy, but beautiful Alpine flower, ceases to embellish the sterile solitude, and the eye wanders over snow and glacier, fractured rock and roaring cataract, relieved only by that stupendous monument of human labour—the *Road itself*, winding along the edges of precipices, penetrating the primeval granite, striding over the furious torrent, and burrowing through dark, dreary, dismal, and dripping grottos, beneath accumulated masses of ice and snow. At length, the summit of the Simplon is gained—a solitary human habitation is approached—and the ‘shivering tenant of this frigid zone’ presents himself, in the shape of a Piedmontese soldier, who demands your passport, and levies a contribution upon your purse at the same moment. The contribution, however, is cheerfully paid, since it is expended on a spacious *Hospice*,* similar to that on the great St. Bernard, and destined for the hospitable reception and protection of the way-worn and benighted traveller.

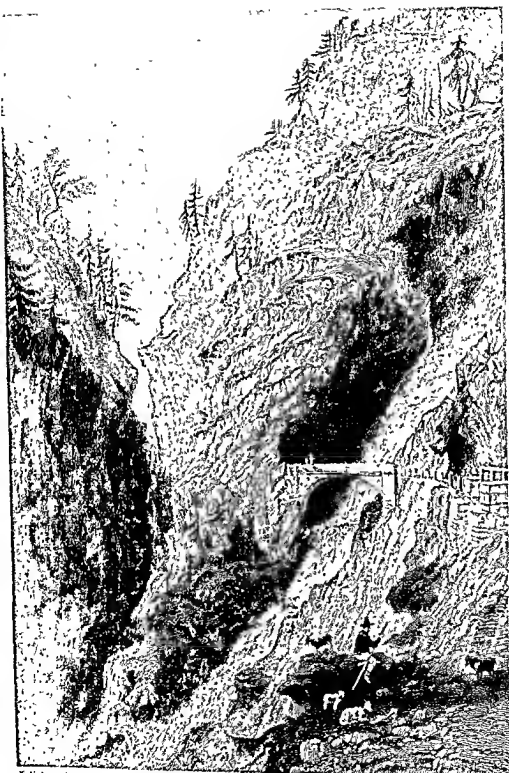
“The descent from the barrier to the Valley of the Simplon, winds between wild, barren, and snow-clad heights, and the traveller is not sorry to ascend the cold stony steps of the *Hôtel-de-la-Poste*. Invalids should not stop here; but those who are in tolerable health, should give two days to the Simplon, and sleep in this eagle’s nest, in order to feel the contrast between the mountain air of the Alps, and the mephitic atmosphere of the Vallais.

“The Valley of the Simplon, contrary to the usual mode, contracts as it descends, and terminates in a frightful chasm between perpendicular precipices, fifteen hundred or two thousand feet high, formed by the rending asunder of granite mountains, during some earthquake or volcano, long before the appearance of man. Through this abyss, or series of abysses, runs and roars the torrent of the *Doveria*, formed by the junction of the *Krumbach* and *Quirna*. At the point where these two glacier streams, or rather cataracts unite, the road, which had first accompanied the one and then the other, dives into the solid rock and disappears. On emerging from the gloomy grotto, the route follows the

* The view is taken from this point, at an elevation of 6560 feet. In the lowest depth of the picture is the town of Naters; above are the Bernese Alps, the *Denthorn*, the *Jungfrau*, and the *Mönch*, crested with their glaciers. For the last ten years no progress has been made in the New Hospice, commenced by Napoleon, and which was to have enclosed a space of 200 feet in length by 70 feet in breadth. The establishment was to have consisted of fifteen persons, monks and domestics, and to have been conducted on the model of the great St. Bernard.

channel of the foaming Doveria, sometimes excavated out of the wall of granite on one side, sometimes striding across the boiling flood, and pursuing the same course on the other. In this way the astonished traveller proceeds for nine or ten miles, through a succession of the most stupendous and desolate scenes which imagination can conceive. The rocks rise on each side to a frightful altitude, and, in many places, appear ready to precipitate themselves headlong on the traveller, while cascades in all directions come down in sheets of foam along their rugged and perpendicular sides."—It is remarkable, that in its whole extent, even in the galleries perforated through the granite, this route preserves its uniform breadth of twenty-five feet, and a slope of not more than one inch and a half in every six feet,—a fact, which, considering the obstacles they had to combat, would appear almost incredible. Under these advantages, carriages proceed in every part of the route with uniform dispatch, and without the slightest occasion to employ the drag-chain. Of all the Alpine passes, this is the only route practicable for artillery and heavily-laden waggons. As it was at first apprehended, that unless fifty, or eighty thousand francs were devoted for annual repairs, the avalanches, torrents, and fragments of rock, in conjunction with the tremendous storms of which these mountains are so oft the theatre, would soon block up or render the route impracticable, the King of Sardinia ordered several parts to be destroyed. This edict, however, was speedily recalled; workmen were stationed along the entire line, and a thorough intercourse re-established. In the mean time, however, frequent devastations, the result of natural causes, have interrupted the communication. Only two years after its completion, the bridge of the Oësbach was entirely swept away by an avalanche.—The gallery of Gondo, or the Great Gallery, as it is called, *par excellence*, is, in point of extent, situation, and execution, a phenomenon in the history of human art and enterprise, and takes undisputed precedence over every other feature in this wonderful route. Eighteen months of incessant labour, night and day, supported by alternate gangs of six men at either opening, were required to complete the excavation of nearly 600 feet through the solid granite. The work was executed, agreeably to the plan furnished by the veteran engineers, MM. Céard and Cournon, in a sinuous course, in order to facilitate the military defence of the passage, by the side of which not an inch of space exists but what is occupied by the Doveria, which here precipitates itself into a gulf of incredible depth, mined by the cataract of Frassinone, and the rocks which it incessantly detaches from the rugged escarpments of this terrible valley, which, in fact, is but a vast fissure, produced by some remote volcanic shock, and sawed deeper and deeper by the incessant action of impetuous torrents. At each extremity of this gallery there is a bridge,





which in any emergency would render the defence more sure and practical. On issuing from the gallery, we stand upon an arch thrown across the Frassinone, a cataract, which is seen falling from a great height above, and then, at a hundred feet below, precipitated into the Doveria. It is impossible to contemplate the scene which is here presented, without a strong feeling of awe and admiration. "It offers," says Mr Brockedon, "perhaps the finest assemblage of objects, to excite an emotion of the sublime, that is any where to be found in the Alps." "My recollection," he adds, "is vivid of the unexpected and awful impression received from the scene, by my hursting suddenly upon it from the gallery."

It was recommended by Ccard, that for the better defence of the passage, the bridge on the French extremity should be of stone, and that on the Italian side of wood, but the result was exactly the reverse. The two lateral openings, which admit light to the gallery, were made with a threefold intention, namely—to apply to the work six gangs, of twenty miners each, instead of two which, under other circumstances, could only proceed in the work, to discharge through these openings the blocks and *débris* of the excavation into the gulf below, and, finally, to light the gallery *after* its completion. Looking out from these, the abyss they overhang seems truly awful, and the roar of the waters beneath appalling. On the rock opposite one of these openings is the rudely chiselled memorial of its completion—ÆRE ITALO MDCCC.

We may partly imagine what must have been the feelings of the stranger or straggler from the neighbouring villages, when overtaken by night in this dismal region, during the progress of the work, how, as he groped his way along the gloomy defile, he was suddenly startled by the sound of hammers, chisels, and pickaxes, mingling with the deafening roar of the Doveria! while groups of beings, more than human in their appearance, clung to the rocks, and carried on their Herculean task by the light of torches—forcing their way through the solid granite then the thunder of the "miners' blast" shivering the rocks, and calling forth a thousand echoes from the mountains! "It was a scene," says M. Mallet, "through which we would advise the author of the next grand epic, to introduce his hero to the infernal regions!"

The efforts of every kind made by the Italian engineers, attached to this, beyond question, the most difficult portion of the undertaking, yet crowned with triumphant success, are deserving of all praise, and invest the names of Gianella and Bossi with well merited immortality. It is a pleasing duty to ascribe honour to whom honour is so justly due, and to be able, in some measure, to appreciate such unexampled labours. "Yet," says Custace, speaking of this gallery, "how insignificant does it appear when compared to the grotto of Posilipo, or to the

gate of Salzburg!" To those acquainted with these objects, and their geological structure—the peculiar circumstances which mutually encouraged or opposed their execution—which rendered the one the triumph of art over nature, and the other the result of mere physical labour—this statement must appear too absurd to require refutation. They present, respectively, such difficulties as may be imagined, by comparing the perforation of an oak to that of an apple. Farther, says Mr. Eustace, the Simplon is "covered with perpetual snow, and is remarkable for the passage of Buonaparte, previous to the battle of Marengo!" This is a mistake; as the invasion in question was effected by way of the Great St. Bernard.

In expressing our admiration of these galleries there is no need, as an anonymous writer has well observed, to draw upon the imagination. The distance from human dwellings—the difficulty of access—the dangers of the avalanche, the precipice, the storm, and the torrent—all are circumstances which enhance the magnitude of the undertaking, and should not be forgotten in contemplating the results. If a temple were built upon the summit of Mont Blanc, what should we think of the traveller who sneered at its architecture, because it did not equal in magnificence that of St. Peter's?

A little below Gondo a small chapel marks the extreme boundary of the Vallais. The government of this canton is democratic, and the Bishop of Sion the chief magistrate. Although in no respect an actual sovereign, he receives, nevertheless, all the honours peculiar to that dignity; he has the sole privilege of holding, and of inhabiting at pleasure, the fortresses of the country: he alone convokes the national assemblies—which are held twice a-year—and such diets extraordinary as occasion may demand. The election of Bishop rests with the people, who make choice on the presentation of four candidates from each of the seven cantons of the Upper Vallais, proposed by the Canons of Sion. The second magistrate is the Captain-General; after him come the Banneret, the Treasurer, and the Chancellor. All these are accountable for their administration to the deputies of the seven cantons, or subdivisions, who constitute a Supreme Council. This council possesses the legislative authority, and pronounces decisively in all questions of public and private interest.

"After traversing the solitude of Gondo,* and the somewhat less savage defiles

* In the Vignette accompanying the present work, the reader will observe a striking sketch of this dismal village and hostelry. Prior to the formation of the grand route, merchandise was transported on mules; and in case of stormy weather, hundreds of beasts of burden, forming a caravan, were here obliged to halt for shelter, and often for several days together. Two brother-barons were the original fabricators and feudal proprietors of this gloomy sanctuary.



of Isella, the scene gradually changes—the towering precipices begin to lose a little of their perpendicularity, and recede backwards at their summits; the abyss becomes less gloomy; solitary and stunted pines shew themselves on the ledges of rock; then clusters of pines; and, at last, the gorge opening wider and wider, a fairy scene—the romantic Valley of Fontana bursts on the view! This, indeed, is *Italy!* The chilling humid vapours of the tremendous abyss, from which the traveller has emerged, vanish at once; the balmy air is loaded with odoriferous perfumes; the sloping glades on the left are covered with vineyards, orchards, gardens, villages white as snow, and every kind of cultivation, contrasting with the still precipitous and gigantic cliffs on the right. After proceeding a few miles farther along the foaming Doveria,* another and much more spacious valley opens out to view, at the village of Crevola—‘one of the most delightful,’ as Eustace justly observes, ‘which Alpine solitudes inclose, or the foot of the wanderer ever traversed.’ This is the Val D’Ossola.”

The almost magical effect produced upon the traveller by the sudden exhibition of this magnificent picture, Dr. Johnson has described with equal force and originality. “Whether,” says he, “it was owing to the physical qualities of the air—the sudden transition from scenes of savage sublimity to romantic beauty—from sterility to fertility—from the awful work of earthquakes and cataracts, to the peaceful labours of man—from solitude to society—or from all these causes combined, I know not; but the exhilaration produced upon myself and a large party by this first entrance into the glades of Italy, was indescribable. Imagination, early association of ideas, and reminiscences of classic tale and history, must have had considerable effect. I have entered upon and sojourned in many different climates on the face of this globe, but never did I feel such elasticity of soul and body, as in the drive from the Crevola to Duomo D’Ossola. A thousand times did I inspire, to the very utmost extent of my lungs, the balmy atmosphere of Italy, and still with increasing delight. After this confession, it will not be said that I descended to the velvet plains of Latium, with a mind prejudiced against its climate.”

“O TERRE de Saturne! ô doux pays! beau ciel!
Lieux où chanta VIRGILE, où peignit RAPHAËL!
Terre dans tous les temps consacrée à la gloire,
Grande par les beaux arts, reine par la victoire!

* It was at the opening of the Val Dovedro, that in 1437 the Vallaisans gave battle to the Milanese, and where the women of Duomo took such signal vengeance upon the former, for the outrages they had committed

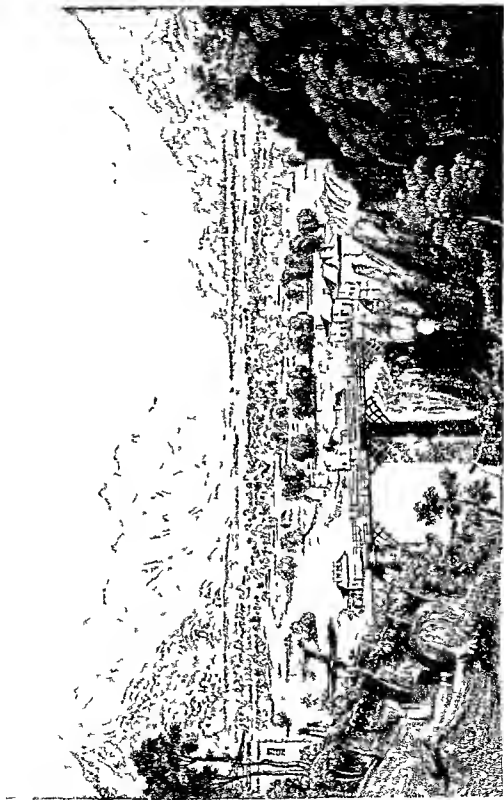
*Sans respect, sans amour, qui peut toucher tes bords !—
Partout les descendants de la reine du monde
Réussissent sa gloire, et la terre féconde
Rend l'Italie antique à leurs nobles efforts.**

SAINT-VICTOR. *Le Voyage du Poëte.*

Inaccessible as these Alpine regions which we have just left have hitherto been, and inhospitable as they must ever seem to visitors from a more favoured country, still their awful solitudes embosom numerous scattered villages, whose isolated population derive a scanty subsistence from the grazing of flocks, employment on the route, casual attendance on travellers, and the cultivation of a late and precarious harvest of rye and potatoes. But even these are confined to certain altitudes; and at the elevation of the village of the Simplon, neither fruit nor vegetable can be produced for the use of man. Still the inhabitants, though subject to so many privations, are neither more unhappy, unhealthy, nor more discontented than their luxurious neighbours. They can expatiate with patriotic warmth upon the beauty of their native rocks, the keen but invigorating temperature of their clime; and over their precarious meal experience that sentiment of gladness and gratitude, which continued profusion, or even regular supplies, can but seldom inspire. In situations, where even the pine is unable to take root, the wood of the rhododendron, the hardiest and most beautiful of all Alpine plants, supplies them with fuel; and with such humble means to soften the rigours of an eight months' winter, they enjoy a degree of health and cheerfulness, which form a rich equivalent for the absence of other essentials. "Avez-vous jamais respiré," say they, in the words of Barthélemy, "dans vos riches appartements la fraîcheur de cet air qui se joue sous cette voûte de verdure! Et vos repas, quelquefois si somptueux, valent-ils ces jattes de lait qu'on vient de traire?—Quel goût ne prêtent pas à nos aliments, des travaux qu'il est si doux d'entreprendre même dans les glaces de l'hiver? dont il est si doux de se délasser, tantôt dans l'épaisseur des bois, tantôt auprès d'une flamme étincillante, nourrie par des troncs d'arbres, au milieu de nos femmes et de nos enfans—objets toujours nouveaux de l'amour le plus tendre!—au mépris de ces vents impétueux qui grondent autour de nos retraites sans troubler la tranquillité!"

Besides most of the quadrupeds and birds that range at liberty over the plains of France and Germany, there are several others indigenous to the Alps; namely, the lynx,* the white hare, the black squirrel, the dormouse, the chamois,

* A fine specimen of this animal was taken a few years ago in the neighbourhood of Saxe-Meiningen, and may be seen in the Museum there, where it is preserved in commemoration of the remarkable fact. Vide the author's "Journal of a Residence in Germany, during an attendance upon His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence."



the black and fawn-coloured bear, especially on the southern flanks of the Higher Alps, the white tit, the Alpenfluevogel, and the large eagle, known by the name of *læmmergeier*, which is four feet four inches long, measures nine feet four inches between the extremities of both wings, and weighs from eight to fifteen pounds. This formidable bird will attack chamois, lambs, kids, calves, &c, and has been seen in the Grisons to assail an ox, and struggle vainly for several hours to precipitate him from the rocks.

Entomologists, botanists, and others, desirous of collecting specimens, should begin their excursions to the calcareous mountains early in June, and visit the granitic Alps in August.

For such Alpine tourists as purpose to combine the study of Botany with their excursions, a small press to dry the plants will be found very convenient. For all very delicate plants it is indispensable, but, where the traveller is unprovided with the apparatus, a book may be substituted, and the flower or plant carefully deposited between the leaves. For others, again, who calculate on passing some time among the mountains, and are so circumstanced as to return home every night, a tin box will answer the purpose nearly as well, but they must be careful to have it trimmed with fresh moss, over which, in order to preserve the plants moist and natural, a little water must be sprinkled at intervals.

For the convenience of the mineralogist, the apparatus used by Professor Pictet, of Geneva, is the best that can be selected. It consists of a leathern girdle, on the left side of which is a sheath of the same material, to hold the hammer, on the right is a pocket to contain a phial of acid, enclosed in a wooden box, and the necessary implements to strike a light. This girdle forms the upper part of a thin leather apron, that may come down to the knee, or be tied up by means of buttons on the sides, so as to make a kind of wide horizontal pocket, open at the top, and supported in the middle by a leathern thong, the shape of a Y reversed, the two branches of which are fixed to the girdle. The thong, which we have already said supports the pocket, is buckled or locked to the belt, in which M. Pictet carried a barometer. Thus the minerals collected being placed near the centre of gravity of the body, and partly supported by the shoulders, give the least possible inconvenience to the pedestrian. He has his specimens constantly under his eye, and within reach when he wishes to substitute some one more eligible than those at first picked up. In this way, moreover, the stones suffer less damage by friction than when carried in the pocket. Moveable steel hooks serve to suspend, on one of the sides of the girdle, a sextant of three inches diameter—a very useful instrument to observe

the angles, of which it will serve the purpose of ascertaining, not only the degrees, but the minutes; and, on the other side, an artificial horizon, and a water-level to measure the heights. M. Pietet contrived to make the box for this instrument serve as a table, standing on a kind of stick, the legs of which open in a triangular form, to support the barometer, and which, being closed, will answer the purpose of a good walking-stick.

For the artist, or amateur, who wishes to transfer the face of nature to his portfolio, a large octavo paper book,—blue and grey are the best,—a pewter *stilet*,—which is preferable to the black-lead pencil, inasmuch as it requires no preparation to fix the outlines,—with chalk and crayons of the usual landscape colours, comprise nearly the whole *matériel* for the object in view. To the experienced artist we presume not to address ourselves; but we would advise the amateur to tint his views from nature on the spot, and never to rely upon mere memory to conjure up the resemblance. Every evening, on returning to his inn, it will be advisable to strengthen the outlines by substituting Indian ink for the marks of the crayon. In this manner he may secure the resemblance, and proceed satisfactorily; while, in after life, the most meager outlines from his portfolio will often awaken impressions and recollections of the Alps which the most animated and vivid description could not convey. The morning and evening illuminations are the seasons at which these sketches may be made with best effect. The rough, black, and convex mirrors sold by Breitiger, at Zurich, and to be had in most of the principal towns, are much employed by native artists. By means of these, light and shade, partial or entire landscapes, being brought together, and concentrated into a small space, the various features of the picture come more immediately within the axis of vision, and, while they maintain their relative proportions, are readily taken down by the pencil. To those who are not already familiar with this apparatus it will be found to be a great acquisition, and will much facilitate the process, while it ensures the accuracy, of the drawing.

Having left Switzerland by the great pass of the Simplon, and purposing, after a short *détour* of the Italian lakes, to re-enter it by the celebrated pass of the Splughen, we trust it will neither be irrelevant to our subject, nor uninteresting to the reader, if we descant for a little on the means best calculated to ensure his personal security, and to enhance the pleasure and satisfaction consequent upon excursions in the higher Alps—such as he may have it in contemplation to perform. We are the more disposed to select this duty at present, from the consideration that, on repassing the Alps and dividing our attention between the startling events of history, and the sublime character of

the scenery which that route will unfold, our pages must be reserved for the employment of more imposing and essential materials

It should be a fixed practical maxim with every traveller in the Alps to take counsel of the inhabitants, and to be swayed by their observations, in whatever regards sudden atmospheric changes, the practicability of mountain *traverses* the danger or security from avalanches in their different forms, and the times and seasons at which the wonderful objects in view are most safe and accessible. The invalid is required to be especially on his guard, to avoid exposure on the elevated points in his route, to make curiosity subservient to prudence, and he may then rest assured that, with these limitations, there is nothing from which he may shrink in a passage over the Alps

With this view we recommend the following observations—originally impressed upon us by the perusal of M Fbel and others, but reduced to practice during subsequent excursions in the Alps—to the attention of our adventurous countrymen, convinced that, in a region where only the pedestrian can approach many of the scenes to advantage, they may serve as useful memoranda

If the traveller is not in the habit of walking let him begin with short excursions of two or three leagues, to which he may add one league every succeeding day. In this way he will avoid the danger of over exertion, and, in the course of a week, look with mingled surprise and pleasure at the progress he has made in the right use of his limbs. In ascending steep mountains, let him abide strictly by the following directions—to proceed at first with a regular, moderate step, by this means respiration will not be impeded, nor the circulation too much accelerated, and he will be able to continue the ascent for several hours without fatigue. Those who have not been accustomed to travel in the Alps, generally embark with too much ardour at commencement, or take too long steps, so that, after continuing the exertion for a single hour, exhaustion is induced and thus the chief object of their setting out greatly, if not entirely, defeated. To all, therefore, who would reach the summit with sufficient spirit left to enjoy the prospect, let the motto be—*Festina lente!*

Whenever the rule is practicable, the traveller should always ascend the mountain from the west side in the morning, and from the point opposite in the evening. By this precaution he will escape the exhausting repercussion of the sun's rays, and prosecute his journey, during the greater part of the day, in comparative comfort. When any particular col, or snowy ridge, is to be crossed, it is advisable to start very early—at four o'clock, or even sooner, in summer—so that a firmer footing may be secured and any dislodgment of the snow, caused by the sun's heat avoided

Of the danger from avalanches, the pine-trees, which are every where scattered over the Alps, afford a very correct indication: for so long as they have not dropped the snow with which their branches are loaded—and which may remain from two to four days—danger is to be apprehended. The frequency of avalanches is in proportion to the severity and duration of the snow-storm; but the danger from that cause is chiefly imminent at the setting in of a thaw. We would, therefore, caution the rash, or unexperienced tourist, and whom pressing necessity does not impel forward, never to attempt the passage of the higher Alps, until the fall of the vernal avalanches has been announced, and free intercourse re-established. Let it also be noted that, after a succession of rainy days, a different kind of avalanche is to be guarded against—one of the three varieties already described—namely, the descent of large fragments of rock from the precipices which skirt, or enclose, the valleys, and often block up, or even obliterate, the road. Under these circumstances, a short halt becomes indispensable; and the tourist who consults his safety, must suffer himself to be swayed, as to the time of his proceeding, by the experience and prudent calculations of the native guides.

Travelling in large parties is attended with many inconveniences, or even privations. The difference in age, ardour, taste, strength, and temperament, make it next to impossible to keep company; each, according to his fancy, will be constantly on the outlook for congenial subjects; so that you will observe exhaustion and restlessness, apathy and enthusiasm, excitement and depression, exhibited by the same party—often ludicrously contrasted—yet called forth by the contemplation of the same scene or incident. We recollect two most intimate friends and worthy citizens, who, in a pleasure excursion through Switzerland, presented a contrast of this description, but in such extreme that, while the one shed tears as he stood mute and devout in the chapel of Tell, his friend pursued exactly the opposite course, and filled the sacred precincts with raillery and declamation of the most absurd character. Yet both were sincere, inseparable friends; with no apparent sympathies, but walking over the land like the two laughing and “piping” philosophers of antiquity. There is another and greater inconvenience, however, to which large parties travelling in the remote cantons are exposed; namely, the scanty and insufficient accommodation supplied by the inns—*gasthofen* and *auberges*—which, during the rambling season, are overstocked with customers; and to late arrivals, present a most indifferent welcome after a fatiguing day's journey. On some occasions, also, the nights must be passed where there are no inns, and where the party must be thrown upon the hospitality of the minister, or curé, for the means of rest and

refreshment. But as these inconveniences apply chiefly to large parties, those whose number does not exceed three may be perfectly easy on the subject, and commence their journey without the slightest dread of any thing like serious privation.

In addition to the always more or less probable danger attending an Alpine route—namely, the danger from *above*—there is another, and sometimes a very formidable one from below, where the narrow path winds along a precipice of extreme depth, and the traveller's eye is suddenly arrested, and paralyzed by the sight of an appalling chasm at his feet. Instances of this sort are numerous, and on nervous individuals produce a sort of moral paralysis, or rather fascination, which has at times proved fatal. The melancholy fate of the Saxon gentleman, already recorded in these pages, with others which we could mention, were, no doubt, the result of the same inexplicable fascination, and the pedestrian should bear forcibly impressed upon his mind this fact, that what is exceedingly practicable in the *ascent*, may prove a dangerous enterprise in the opposite direction. In the one case he has to face and approach, in the other to recede from, the danger, and even the strongest mind will at times be shaken by the fearful suggestions conveyed to it through the eye. The only remedy in the case—for such passages are unavoidable among the Alps—is, if possible, to familiarize the eye with the subject, and to wait till the effect produced upon the imagination has subsided, and the mind has recovered its self-command. But where this indifference is not to be acquired, and where the eye is constantly attracted to the object in question, it will be impossible for the feet to advance with safety, and the traveller must either consign himself to the unperturbable self-possession of his guides, or retire—a measure which, as we have just observed, is not always a favourable alternative. The alacrity and *sang froid* with which the native guides—particularly those of Thun and Chamonix—scramble or vault along these precipices and chasms, are subjects of astonishment to the uninitiated tourist, such are the mere natural results of much and early familiarity with objects of terror. A Swiss on the verge of a precipice, and a seaman on the topmast of a seventy-four, feel nothing of the trepidation with which the spectator is affected, but fearing nothing, have nothing to fear. The agility of the Swiss peasants, in such instances, is depicted with much truth and picturesque effect by Sir Walter Scott, in his *Anne of Geierstein*. We have occasionally observed, and have heard too many anecdotes in proof of, a reckless hardihood in some of our young countrymen, and a propensity, on such occasions, to court unnecessary peril and exposure. It is, however, but a sorry exhibition of native courage, to bring into unnecessary

jeopardy that life which is the strength and property of the state, and cannot be honourably sacrificed but in her service, or in the great cause of humanity. Let them reflect that, while their self-possession and resources in cases of real danger are proverbial, they have nothing to gain by uncalled for displays of those excellent properties; and that it is much more noble to reserve their courage for combating such dangers as spring up of themselves, than to tempt those they might avoid. We step aside to make these observations, under the impression of painful reminiscences, and trust that our young friends will, on all occasions, unite these two attributes of the goddess by whom they have been so liberally endowed—valour and prudence!*

Strangers in the Alps are very apt to be misled in their calculations of distance, and to consider an object within immediate reach, which, in reality, may prove to be several leagues off. This deception originates in the peculiarly rarefied and transparent condition of the atmosphere, and is only to be corrected by much experience, study, and observation. The most striking deception of the kind we ever remember, was experienced in crossing the Apennines from Florence to Bologna, when, having reached an isolated point between the latter and Cavallajo, the vast plain of Lombardy lay like a map at our feet, with all its numberless cities, towns, villages, rivers, and streams, bright as silver, and so distinctly marked and defined, that we could hardly reconcile the apparent proximity with the actual distance. Travellers, however, like other men, become cautious by experience; and reflect, that most objects of desire, like those in the Alps, although beautifully defined, and seemingly within their grasp, may, nevertheless, prove either very remote, or altogether inaccessible.

In our brief sketch of Chamouni, we adverted to the danger attending an incautious survey of the glaciers, and shall only recommend the traveller who wishes to examine these wonderful bodies, to hire the most experienced guides in the neighbourhood, provided with ropes, poles, or ladders, as a prompt and available resource in all cases of danger. He should never attempt to take the lead of his guides, nor part from them, but to follow in the exact tract prescribed, and pay the most scrupulous attention to every warning and suggestion which their experience so well enables them to furnish. After a fall

* In these cautionary remarks, the adventurous spirit of our fair countrywomen is not to be overlooked; for so long as the latter are to be met with in every perilous situation in the Alps, it is but an act of common gallantry on the part of the gentlemen to follow at least, if they do not lead. "If mothers and daughters" attempt and accomplish such feats—*quid non facient magistri?* Within the last few years, Mrs. C., a lady of high accomplishments and enterprising spirit, has made the ascent of Mont Blanc. This throws M. de Saussure quite into the shade.

of snow, which in these elevated regions often takes place in the midst of summer, the clefts and crevices in the ice, being partially concealed, render a visit to the glaciers attended with imminent risk. The same danger presents itself during the heat of the day, when the snow becoming too soft to support the feet, the adventurer sinks at every step, and incurs the hazard of dropping through, and becoming crystallized in one of the numerous chasms with which the glacier is so deeply scarred! Of this several melancholy instances are recorded.

The painful effect produced upon the eyes by a long walk over ice or snow, will be agreeably obviated by wearing a piece of black or green crape over the face, a precaution adopted by all who have ascended Mont Blanc, and in common use among the workmen who are employed on the Simplon. In the valleys of Switzerland the summer heat is at times very oppressive and, to some, insupportable. The only certain remedy for this inconvenience is to halt during these extremes, and continue the route only during the early hours of the morning, and again in the cool of the evening. In order to appease the excessive thirst which so often torments the pedestrian in his passage through these sultry valleys, we would recommend the common effervescing powders, which he can mix at any of the delicious springs which gush forth on every side, and will appreciate as a truly royal beverage. The portable leathern cup, drawn from his pocket for the occasion, will present all the elegance and accommodation of a silver goblet. It may not, however, be altogether unnecessary to remind him, that he must never drink this beverage when *much heated and fatigued*, nor take immediate rest after drinking, but have the fate of Father Florinus before his eyes, who, being warm with walking, greatly to the detriment of the convent of Enghelberg, drank of this cooling potation and died! Uncharitable surmises respecting the ingredients, it is true, have been circulated, but this, it is said, was the doing of some unconverted *Huguenot*, and therefore entitled to no credit in a question of such importance. Some say the worthy friar omitted to mingle a little *Kirschwasser* in his draught, others again, that he mingled too much, and that the *Kirschwasser* was the fatal ingredient, but however that may have been, one thing only is certain, namely, that it was the "friar's last draught."

In addition to the comforts already suggested, we would advise the pedestrian to provide himself with a straw hat to protect him from the sun, and a light umbrella—or, in place of the latter, with an oil silk cloak, which is not only a complete security in rainy weather, but also exceedingly comfortable when the wearer is exposed to the keen and searching winds of the Alps. Cloaks of this material are very light, and may be bought for nine or ten florins. Those who

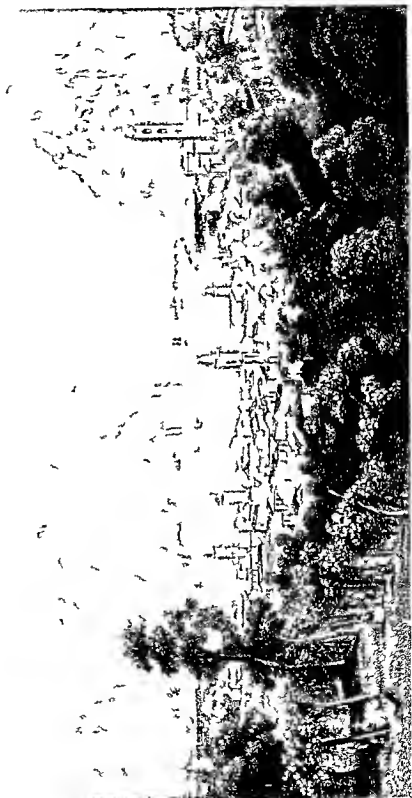
venture among the Alps for the first time, and who are not of very robust health, should by no means omit the precaution of taking a warm suit with them, to be used as occasion may require. The usual weight carried by the guides, is from thirty-five to forty pounds, or upwards; so that the tourist may carry every convenient change of raiment along with him, and thus provide against those sudden variations of weather and temperature which are the natural characteristics of those lofty regions. Besides the items already mentioned, there are a few others necessary for the complete equipment of the tourist; but as our hints are fast swelling into pages, we must conclude for the present by referring him to the *viva voce* communications of some experienced adviser, and proceed with him on our projected route.

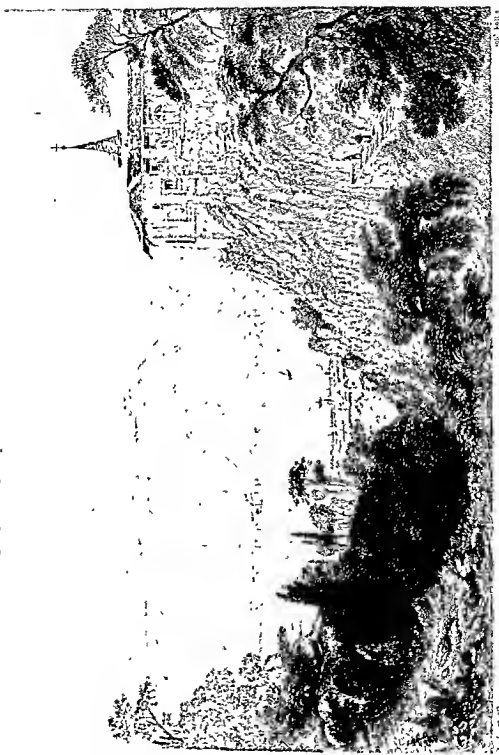
Having thus far, as we trust, advanced sufficient arguments to put the traveller on his guard as to the dangers which may occasionally threaten him, if unmindful of good counsel; we now hasten to open a new leaf, and introduce him to those retired cantons where, as we remarked in an early portion of this work, the Switzer retains the stamp of his native character unimpaired; and where the valour and patriotism with which history and tradition have invested him are still the active principles of his existence. We shall there converse with him at his own hearth, listen to the inspiring history of his ancestral achievements, survey his battle fields, participate in his patriotic enthusiasm, visit the shrine of Tell, and, gazing upon the sublime scenery around us, cease to wonder that so many thousands have imbibed inspiration from the same sight, and been impelled to the performance of deeds which have secured her liberties, and give a sacred character to the soil of Switzerland.

CANTON OF TESSIN, OR TICINO

" Here beauty and primeval nature dwell;
 Ever-green forests—fountains ever clear—
 Haunts of the fabled muse—how shall I tell
 The transport ye inspire in stranger's ear!"

FROM the Ponte Crevola, which closes the pass of the Simplon, we proceed successively through Domo d'Ossola, Villa, Vogogna; and, at Baveno, embark upon the lucid waters of the *Lago Maggiore*. We shall not detain the reader by





any studied description of this beautiful lake, or of the palaces which, as if conjured up by the wand of enchantment, emerge from its surface, and, with their thousand accompaniments of natural and artificial embellishments, recal to the spectator's mind the classic fables of Armida and the Hesperides. The scenery of this lake, as we ascend from the islands to re-enter the Confederation at Brissago, is perfectly Italian in character, exquisitely beautiful, and presents the strongest contrast that can be well imagined, with the scenes of grandeur and desolation through which we have just passed. Profusely scattered along its steep romantic shores, towns, villages, villas, convents, churches, and castellated rocks, follow in quick succession, and fill up a picture such as no other portion of Italy can exhibit. Forests of luxuriant chestnuts overshadow the flanks of the enclosing mountains, and, embrowned by the fervid summers of Italy, contrast well with the verdant pasturages of Switzerland.

Passing the remains of some castellated edifices which stretch into the lake, we regain the Swiss frontier, at Brissago, and, gliding along that portion of the waters which pass under the distinctive appellation of the Lake of Locarno, land at the small town of Magadino,—near the entrance of the Ticino into the lake, where the steam boat, now plying, has its daily receipt and discharge of company. Opposite this station, the white buildings of Locarno skirting the lake, and the convent of Madonna del Sasso crowning the eminence beyond, add much interest, and some artificial touches of great effect, to the natural picture. The deep cerulean tint of the water, the brightness of the sky, the balmy freshness which is every instant wafted from a soil where the fig, the orange, the olive, and pomegranate reach maturity, stamp a luxuriance and serenity upon the scene, which surprise and fascinate every stranger. Several buildings of taste and elegance still bear evidence of the prosperity which shone upon Locarno in its better day, but the population is very thin compared with its ancient census, and, at most, counts but thirteen hundred inhabitants. Situated on the western shore of the Lake Maggiore, and defended from the keen blasts of the north, by a natural rampart of mountains, it enjoys a delicious, fertile, and exceedingly mild climate. The spring commences with March, the fields produce two crops, and, planted with elms at intervals of eight or nine feet, to which the vines are trained, the effect is strikingly picturesque. Were the industry of the inhabitants freed from the stagnating influences around, and directed into some remunerating channel, Locarno might still present a picture of happiness and prosperity, but the obstacles which oppose the due exercise and employment of those ample resources which Providence has placed at their disposal, are at present a dead weight upon

industry. Their principal traffic consists in wheat and wine, aided by the manufacture of clocks, hats, and strong cloths. Of the public buildings, the cathedral and three convents are the chief; of the latter, that of the Franciscans is the most remarkable. Belonging to the same order, is the Madonna del Sasso,* which commands in its natural position one of the finest views in Italy. The vineyards around this eminence are particularly luxuriant. In consequence of the steam-boat lately launched upon the lake, and the great increase of traffic and tourists to which that epoch has given rise, Magadino seems fast rising into importance. The same agreeable testimony is presented wherever this great medium of intercourse has been established.—It was in the bailiwick of Locarno that, during the middle of the sixteenth century, the reformist party mustered so strong; and where Lelius and Faustus Socinus promulgated a creed far more liberal than those of Zuinglius and Calvin. They were both, however, expelled the country, and their adherents sentenced to banishment or death. Beccaria next presented himself as a distinguished teacher of the evangelical doctrines in Locarno; but the governor, who was of the catholic persuasion, caused him also to be imprisoned till a band of reformists, having assailed his castle, forced him to consent to Beccaria's liberation. Hereupon the governor, empowered by the seven catholic confederate cantons, issued an order for all conformists to attend mass; while those who refused to comply were sentenced to outlawry. Various scenes of mutual persecution and retaliation followed, till at last it was resolved to banish the whole body of reformists from Locarno. A decree was accordingly pronounced to this effect, in March, 1555, and one hundred and fifty of the reformists were summoned to the Town-hall, to hear, in silent submission, the passing of the sentence. No sooner had it been pronounced, than the Pope's nuncio, says the historian, precipitately entered the hall, and indignantly exclaimed:—"This is too mild a sentence. The exiles must be stripped of their property, nay, even of their children!" The catholic deputies, however, whose hearts were more susceptible of humanity than that of the minister of God, shrunk from the thought of such cruel severity, saying:—"We never reverse a sentence once pronounced!" Accordingly this unhappy band of exiles were driven from their homes, and compelled, at this inclement season, with their wives and young children, to cross the dreary and dangerous defiles of the Alps, and crave an asylum from the charity of strangers. More than a hundred of this proscribed colony, among

* The View is taken from the edge of a ravine looking towards Bellinzona—the termination of the Lake is seen, and the Ticino gleaming as it winds along the level plain to enter the Lake.



whom were many affluent and learned men—such as Orelli, Muralt, and others—were welcomed with true christian benevolence at Zurich, where their families are distinguished to the present day. It is worthy of remark that this simple act of expatriation, the art of weaving silk was first introduced into Zurich, mills and dyeing houses established, and so much contributed thereby to the industry and prosperity of the town, that its celebrity was soon extended far beyond the limits of Switzerland.

From Magadmo to Lugano, the road crosses Moote Cenere, and descends the course of the torrent of Agoo, as far as the village of Taverne, where it branches off to the left. The scenery, as we approach Lugano, becomes exquisitely luxuriant, and in character purely Italian. From the road immediately overlooking the town,* we made an involuntary halt, as the splendid view which that point afforded suddenly opened upon us—enriched with luxuriant vineyards, through which the white buildings of the town rose in fine relief—the lake expanded like a mirror, and reflected on its glassy surface the numberless beauties, natural and artificial, with which the shore is embellished, while Mont Salvadore rose on the right, and threw a chastening shadow over the whole scene. The surrounding mountains—of the third order—are richly wooded with chestnuts, while the plain offers an assemblage of every feature essential to the constitution of beautiful and picturesque landscape—vineyards, meadows, orchards, gardens—scenes of beauty and fertility present themselves on either hand, while spacious villas, embowered in almond, olive, fig, and mulberry trees occupy every height, and gave to the already animated picture the luxuries of art and the elegance of refined life. There was an air of bustle and commercial activity in the squares and streets of Lugano, which was peculiarly agreeable after the scenes of mental stagnation through which we had just passed. This town is an *entrepôt* for all merchandize received or sent across the St Gothard, and in this manner a spirit of industry and emulation is kept constantly on the alert. The domestic manufactures consist of silk and tobacco, which are the most considerable. After these may be mentioned those of hats, tanoeries, and various printing establishments—one of which issues every Monday the Gazette—*Il Corriere del Ceresio*. In the neighbourhood are several forges of copper and brass, also some establishments, where silk is manufactured by machinery of a highly ingenious

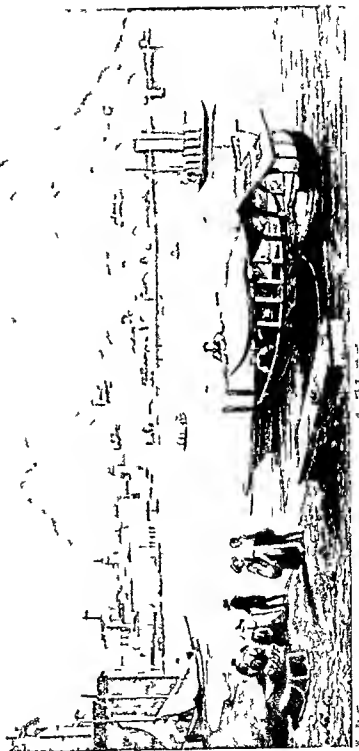
* Our View is taken from this point where the buildings seem to repose in the bosom of the Lake. Mont Salvadore is conspicuous on the right, with a chapel on the summit while on the left the Lake recedes towards Porlezza.

construction. The great annual fair is held about the middle of October. The inhabitants are computed at three thousand seven hundred, or upwards. The environs abound in delightful promenades, all commanding objects and situations of great beauty or interest. Boating on the lake is a favourite pastime, and frequent parties are made to visit the caves hollowed in the rocks of Monte Caprino, where the cool air from the mountain preserves its extraordinary freshness during the greatest heats of summer. The ascent to Salvadore is steep, but rich in prospect, and much frequented by pilgrims. The collegiate church, situated upon a small eminence, is remarkable for the ornaments on its principal entrance.

The Val-Levantine, another extensive district of this canton, consists of three divisions; the first, comprising the Valleys of Bédretto, Trémola, and Canaria: the second, the intermediate portion between the defile of Platifer and that of Chironico; the third, which enjoys the full advantage of an Italian climate in soil and produce, extends from Giornico to the Lago Maggiore. These three divisions comprehend all that can be imagined as characteristic of the severity of winter, the verdure of spring, with the beauty and abundance of summer and autumn. The whole valley is rich in subjects of natural history, and rife in political recollections. In remote times, the Upper Levantine formed the bed of a lake, which, by the bursting asunder of the rocky barrier within which it occupied a natural crater, was suddenly drained, and thereby submitted a new territory for the ambition of man.

The mountain which, in 1512, fell across the Val-Blegno and blocked up the course of the river, gave origin to a lake which, after accumulating for two hundred years, at length burst its confinement, and sweeping every thing before it into the Lago Maggiore, added one more to the events of 1814—a momentous epoch for these valleys.

The ground between Giornico, Chiggiogna, and Faido, is famous as the scene of the first victory which, by an ingenious device, carried the terror of the Swiss arms into Italy. The circumstances are briefly these:—Some Milanese subjects having one day ventured to fell timber in the Val-Levantine, a party of young men from Uri crossed the St. Gothard, and commenced a course of retaliation by pillaging the nearest villages. This outrage, instead of being prevented, was encouraged by the canton of Uri, and followed by a declaration of war against the Duke of Milan, an enterprise in which they called upon their confederates for support. The latter, failing in their endeavours to effect a reconciliation, yet unwilling to abandon their allies in a moment of no ordinary danger, despatched a body of troops to their assistance. In the meantime Borelli, the



Milanese general, marched with a strong force up the Ticino, to give a timely and effectual check to this invasion. The Swiss advanced guard, consisting of only six hundred men, lay at Giornico, where the main body of the confederates, about ten thousand strong, was shortly expected. Borelli, however, saw the advantage thus offered, and resolving to push on the attack before the expected reinforcement should arrive, made a rapid advance at the head of his best troops. This was late in December, while the frost was intense, and the Swiss having caused the waters of the Ticino to overflow the meadows, the latter were speedily covered with ice, upon which, having supplied themselves with cramp irons, the men of Uri took their stand, and calmly awaited the attack. Along this slippery surface the Milanese continued to advance with cautious and faltering steps, while the firm footed Swiss rushed suddenly down upon them, and with their trifling force easily overthrew their tottering battalions, of whom fifteen thousand fled before a force of six hundred. Milan was constrained to purchase peace by making ample indemnification, and recognising the right of Uri to the Val Levantine, as a perpetual fief, on condition that a wax taper, weighing three pounds, should be presented annually to the cathedral of Milan. Frischhans Theilig, commander of the Lucerne troop on this day, in acknowledgment of the effect with which he wielded his two handed sword, acquired from the Milanese the name of the exterminating angel.

The canton of Tessin,—the most southern of the Helvetic Confederation, and wedged in between the Austrian and Sardinian states,—possesses a territory of fifty three square miles, with a population of ninety thousand. It is composed almost exclusively of valleys, extending their ramifications along the southern flank of the Alps, and, with the exception of the plain and lake of Lugano, all opening into the principal valley watered by the Ticino. Bellinzona, Lugano, and Locarno, are, each in its turn and for a period of six years the three capitals of the canton, which is divided into eight districts, and these again, into thirty eight circles. In this canton are comprised the Val Levantine, which, prior to the revolution, was subject to Uri, and seven Italian banwiches four of which, Lugano and Locarno, Mendrisio and Val Maggior, belonged to the twelve first cantons, while the three others, Bellinzona, Val Riviera, and Val Blegno, were subject to the cantons of Uri, Schwytz, and Unterwald.

During the late revolution, owing to some want of accustomed vigilance on the part of the Swiss, the small town of Campione, although entirely inclosed by the district of Lugano, was incorporated with the Milanese territory. The greater portion of the Lake of Lugano, and the higher part of that of Maggior—or the Lake of Locarno, as it is called—belong to this canton.

The inhabitants are all of Italian extraction, the small German commune of Bosco excepted; and, in their moral and physical character, exhibit all those peculiarities which give such marked distinction to the Cisalpine race. Could advantage of situation, variety of resources, fertility of soil, benignity of climate, or beauty of scenery, constitute a happy people, those of Tessin might rank with the happiest in existence. But all these are insufficient to effect this "one great end and aim;" and he who, as a true philanthropist, traverses this terrestrial paradise, as it has been described, must look patiently and prospectively to that great moral revolution, which is slowly, but not less surely, advancing, and which will ultimately develop the true interests and vindicate the proper dignity of man.

Agriculture, the breeding of cattle, and the transport of merchandise across the Alps, are the chief employment of the industrious classes; while hunting, fishing, the manufacture of silk, straw, &c., as well as the numerous forges in districts where mining is carried on, give extensive facilities to others. But the same propensity to indolence, which we have noticed elsewhere, lays a painful embargo on the progress and interests of agriculture. Instead of profiting by the natural advantages of soil and climate to raise an abundance of corn and wine, the majority of the natives prefer passing their winters and summers, or even whole years, abroad, following the precarious chances of their calling from town to town,* while the labours of the field entirely devolve upon superannuated men, or are consigned, as they often entirely are, to the hands of women and children. In this manner the natural fertility of the soil is, in a great measure, lost, while those who return home from time to time, impart too often a taste for those foreign habits, which, as the fruits of a wandering life, are alike inimical to the morals and domestic industry of their fellow-citizens.

The Catholic is the exclusive form of worship throughout the canton, which, in its ecclesiastic relations, forms part of the dioceses of Milan and Como. The business of public instruction is entirely conducted by monastic authority. Religious communities are numerous and flourishing, and, like the specimen presented in the *Madonna del Sasso*, often singularly commanding and picturesque.

In its civil affairs the canton acknowledges no exclusive privileges. Seventy-six deputies, representing the entire body of the people, and headed by a landamman, or chief magistrate, exercise supreme authority, and, as the great council of the canton, take cognizance of all that concerns its domestic policy. From this body are chosen the eleven members who form the council of state,

* These adventurers are to be found everywhere on the continent, under the name of plasterers, builders, tailors, chimney-sweepers, toffuriers, shepherds, basket-makers, chocolate-makers, pedlars, couriers, &c.

invested with the executive and administrative authority, and the supreme tribunal composed of thirteen judges. The contingents in troops and money required from the canton in case of war, are 3,700 men and 74,000 francs—a proportion, according to the articles of the confederation, of two men in every hundred souls.

The beautiful and classic river from which this canton has its name, issues from one of the small lakes on the St Gothard, and is greatly augmented by the rival branch, which takes its source near the hospice of Acquat, and joins the former at Airolo. Traversing the canton through nearly its whole extent, it falls into the Lago Maggiore, at Magadino, emerges again at Sexto, and finally, after watering another territory, loses itself in the Po at Pavia.

Nothing can surpass the beauty and variety of scenery which fascinate the travellers' attention as he slowly descends Monte Cenere, and enters the Val Leventine, where the rarest productions of Italy are strewn profusely around him.

Here fruit and flower the self-same bough bestows
And cultureless the grape's free nectar flows
Here twice the peasant hoards his ripened sheaves
And crowns his winter with unfading leaves.

In all that respects climate, architecture, soil, produce, population, social habits, and costume, the approach to Bellinzona is purely Italian. The grand and imposing feature in the distance is the great castle, formerly the Castel d'Uri backed by two other commanding fortresses,—the castles of Mezzo, and Sasso Corbario,—from all of which the views are exceedingly picturesque*. During the sovereignty of the three cantons, these fortresses were respectively occupied as official residences by the bailiffs of Uri, Schwytz, and Unterwalden. Towering gradually one behind the other, these castellated eminences give an air of strength and importance to the whole scene, while recent embellishments, enhancing every natural advantage, and appearing under numerous striking combinations, fill up the picture, and leave upon the mind an impression at once pleasing and permanent. The houses in style and accommodation, unite the two recommendations of elegance and solidity, and exhibit a liberal portion of architectural ornament, painting, and sculpture. The cathedral, which is esteemed the finest in the canton, is much admired for the impressive grandeur of its façade, its rich marble altar pieces, and several fine paintings which escaped the epoch of revolutionary plunder. The town contains various monastic and other ecclesiastical establishments. Public instruction is confided to a select number of

* The View illustrative of this subject is taken from the south, and shows the castles in their relative positions.

Benedictine monks, under the immediate sanction of the convent of Einsiedeln, and comprises Latin, Italian, German, geography, natural history, and rhetoric. The charge of female education is committed to the nuns of St. Ursula, who, as well as several other sisterhoods, possess nunneries in the town and neighbourhood. In the immediate suburb is the votive chapel of St. Paul, or, as it was called by the confederates, the red church, built to commemorate the sanguinary conflict fought in this vicinity on the 30th of June, 1422, and which may be thus briefly recapitulated.

The Duke of Milan, still smarting from his recent losses in troops and territory, being suddenly apprised that the Swiss confederates had made over the whole Levantine to the barons of Saxe, hereditary lords of Bellinzona, for a very inconsiderable sum, and failing to effect a counter-treaty with them on the terms he had offered, made a precipitate march into the disputed district, took Bellinzona by a *coup-de-main*, laid the whole territory under contribution, and compelled the inhabitants to take an oath of allegiance to him as their rightful sovereign. In the mean time, the Confederates, who were disunited among themselves, could offer no prompt or efficient aid, and, for a time, the Milanese were suffered to retain undisputed possession of the whole valley. At length, however, having mustered their troops—though greatly inferior to their opponents in every essential, save personal courage—they once more crossed the St. Gothard, and encountered the Milanese force on the plains of Arbedo, where they maintained a desperate struggle from morning till night, and succeeded in restoring the captured province to its owner. This done, and leaving a small garrison in the Val-Levantine, they repassed the Alps; but as the tidings of this dear-bought victory preceded them across the St. Gothard, it became a subject, not of patriotic triumph, but of public regret and lamentation. Among the fatal list of those who on this day had shed fresh *éclat* on the Swiss name, were the landamman and standard-bearer of Uri, and the amman and standard-bearer of Zug. The latter having fallen at the head of his troop, with the standard firmly grasped in his hand, one of his sons drew it from under his father's body, waved the bloody ensign exultingly over the heads of his battalion, renewed the charge with impetuosity, and falling, covered with wounds, resigned the sacred trust to one of his intrepid comrades, by whom it was borne in triumph through the enemy's ranks.

The mortifying results of this victory were shortly after soothed and compensated by an act of singular heroism on the part of Petermann Rysig, who, at the head of five hundred Swiss, scaled the St. Gothard, attacked and expelled the Milanese from the Val-d'Ossola, garrisoned the place with his own intrepid hand, and maintained his ground in face of the whole concentrated force of Milan.

THE GRISONS, OR GRAUBÜNDTEN

Dura viris, et dura fide, durissima sede.—NOLKER LE BOUVE.

*“La Nature marâtre, en ces affreux climats
Ne produit, au lieu d’or, que du fer et des soldats.
Tout son front hérissé n’offre aux desirs de l’homme
Rien que puisse tenter l’avarice de Rome.”*—ZERLAUBEN.

RESUMING our route towards the Bernardino, we continue up the Val-Levantine till we arrive at the bridge of the Moësa; then, turning to the right, and passing through Lumino and Monticello, cross the Grison frontier at San Vittore, and, entering the delicious valley of Misocco, ascend the course of the river, which divides it through its whole extent. A little beyond Roveredo are seen the castles of Calanca and Grono—the former above Santa-Maria. Richness of scenery and fertility of soil are strikingly associated in this valley, where, at small pains, vintage and harvest yield their liberal treasures; and yet where the peasant, surrounded by luxury and abundance, seems poverty-stricken, and doomed to witness a prosperity in which he has small share. The pollente, or flour of Indian corn, and chestnuts, are the chief articles of food among the lower classes. The chestnut cake, such as we have tasted it, is both palatable and wholesome; while the chestnuts, simply roasted, serve as a good substitute for potatoes, which, in other cantons, enter so largely into the common diet. The corn and wine, though excellent in quality, are still insufficient for home consumption; but the natural resources are far from being employed to their full extent, and, under better management, might be made to double, in many instances, their present supplies. Some of the peasants evince a degree of industry and perseverance which would acquire wealth and respectability for them in almost any other situation; but the general character is, it must be confessed, a natural “aptitude for indolence,” and a rooted indifference to what, on the opposite side of the St. Gothard, are objects of unwearied industry and ambition. Both here, and among the Tessinese, the duties of religion are constantly interrupting and curtailing the duties of labour; and having early imbibed the doctrine, that the business of the chapel is the chief business of life, industry is virtually discouraged, superstition promoted, and the indolent taught to expect from a punctilious attendance at mass what they might earn in the field, or in the practice of any

creditable art. But that which we attribute to them as a misfortune, they quote and extol as their greatest merit, and inquire whether a life devoted to the punctual performance of religious observances, or a life spent in the pursuit and accumulation of wealth, is the most likely to ensure happiness?—a question which, inasmuch as it anticipates the answer, sets all reasoning aside, and leaves the querist in the full enjoyment of his native cheerfulness—the true panacea of all his privations.

The pleasure with which we wind along the Misocco is not a little enhanced by the circumstance that we can rarely take in more than a small portion of the valley at once, and that every turn opens some new vista, and throws some new feature into the picture. Surprise seems to increase with our progress, and the scene, “ever changing, ever new,” still presents some fresh and harmonious combinations to stimulate the fancy and soften the heart. The characteristic and predominating features of the landscape are—romantic villages, gradually losing their Italian cast and colour—slopes, sprinkled with *cappanne*, or pastoral cabins—towers—oratories—or mouldering chateaux, half concealed amid the deep luxuriance of chestnuts, and clustered with figs and mulberries. Above these, solitary spots of green pasture—like so many “swat kernels” just bursting their shells—seen in glimpses through the dark forests of pines which usurp the higher or third region;—cascades so numerous as to form a perfect chorus of torrents—at one moment dancing from rock to rock, at another descending in sheets of snow from some tall isolated rock—glancing through the dense foliage, or by one bold and frantic leap plunging at once into the bed of the torrent which ploughs its way through opposing rocks, and the ever-accumulating *débris* from the mountains. On either hand, and seeming to embower the whole course of the Moësa, meadows, gardens, vineyards and orchards, blend their endless variety of tints, and, waving their rich and undulating masses of verdure over the road, delight and refresh the traveller with the two-fold luxury of shade and perfume. Crowning the whole, and shooting their white and glittering peaks into the horizon, the eternal glaciers appear in the distance, and throw the contrasted horrors of winter, and the flush and fruitfulness of summer, into the same picture. All these particular features combined, present a landscape of such mingled beauty and sublimity that the eye is bewildered by the very profusion in which it revels, and the mind excited and restless from the constant succession of objects upon which it has been so intensely exercised.

The finest cascades in this “valley of streams” are those of Cahiola, Soazza, and San-Giacomo. The village of Soazza is peculiarly inviting, and sufficient of itself to elicit from most tourists the hearty ejaculation of *Hoc erat in votis!*



The castle of Misotto,* which next arrests our attention, is finely perched on a bold rocky promontory overlooking the village of that name, and surrounded by rugged cliffs and precipices, where numerous cascades, flashing and foaming through the dark foliage, chafe and swell the torrent of the Moesa, which roars at its base. This is justly esteemed one of the most striking views in the whole territory of the Grisons. The claims which this alpine fortress prefers to antiquity are strong, but indefinite; inasmuch as its original lord, and the period of its erection, are subjects of merely plausible conjecture: but the warlike purpose to which, in remote times, it has been applied, is abundantly evident in its commanding position, and must have made it a formidable barrier against every hostile inroad upon the Rætian territory. From the middle of the tenth to the close of the fifteenth century, Misotto and its territory were held successively in fief of the see of Como, the barons or counts of Saxe, and the dukes of Milan; the latter of whom, the celebrated Trivulzio, resigned his feudal supremacy for a sum stated at twenty-five thousand florins, paid by the inhabitants, who, from that period, became incorporated with the Grison league.

In our progress through the upper district of the valley, which commences at this point, climate, scenery, produce, and population, undergo a sudden and powerful transition. The vine disappears; the mulberry and luxuriant chestnut are superseded by the pine; every object presents a wilder or more romantic aspect; the flanking rocks become more bleak and precipitous—the rushing of winds, and the roaring of cataracts, more audible and multiplied; the frequency and freshness of the verdure interrupted and deformed with barren rocks, in whose crevices the dwarf-pine and rhododendron alone take root: the fine Madonna faces, too, which at times met us in the lower valley, have here undergone a wintry transformation, and proved that female beauty, like tropic flowers, requires a liberal share of soil and climate for its proper development.

In point of volume, and in the height and savage characters of the rocky *Linn*, over which it rushes, the fall of the Moesa, near San-Giacomo, is an object well worth contemplation.

“Through the hollowed channel toiling—
Caverns wildly rent asunder!
Down it gushes—bursting—boiling—
White with foam, and loud as thunder
While o’er the frantic gulf below
An inn flings her glittering bow”

Beyond this the scene assumes a still more sombre and inhospitable aspect, and every step assures us of our proximity to the thrilling regions of winter. The

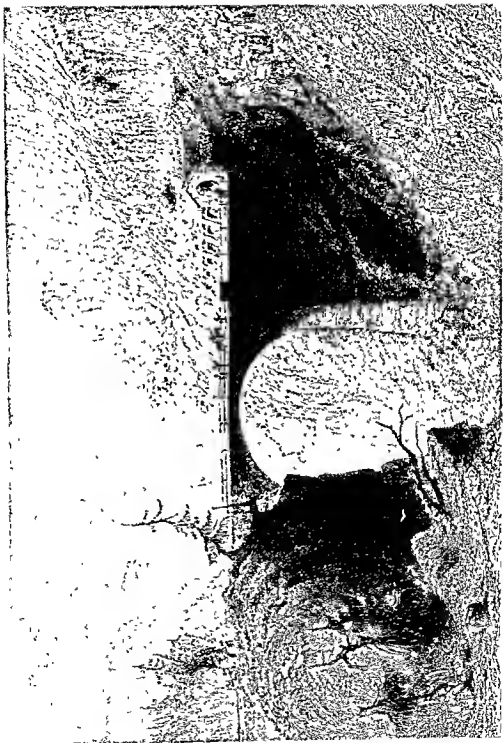
* Our View is taken from the road, looking back upon Soazza.

village of Bernardino, the last of the valley, and placed on the confines of snowy solitudes, has nothing to recommend it beyond the reputation of its mineral spring, which attracts many visitors during the summer, and lays claim to virtues scarcely second, apparently, to those of St. Moritz, and which we shall notice more critically in their proper place. From this village commences the ascent in all its reality; following the brink of the torrent, spanned by a handsome and lofty bridge, which, with a long gallery to protect the road from the danger and ravage of avalanches, has a very impressive effect, as at once intimating the risk, and affording the shelter.* This forms one of the many striking instances which labour and ingenuity have devised for the safe conduct of the solitary traveller across this perilous defile, and which it is impossible to contemplate without a feeling of deep thankfulness for the lives it has already spared, and the dangers it has so happily obviated.

The height of this pass above the sea is estimated at six thousand and thirty feet; and it would be difficult to imagine a scene more thoroughly desolate than here opens upon us, where the genial influence of season is unfelt, and the powers of vegetation consigned to an eternal blight. The small lake which here forms the source of the Moësa, seems only to enhance the dreary aspect of the place, and, like the fabled Avernus, holds nothing living within its waters. Not a leaf, or flower, or shrub, exists on its border, and yet by that beautiful arrangement of Providence, so conspicuous in every department of the natural world, the never-failing stream discharged from its bosom communicates beauty and fertility throughout its whole course. There appears a striking analogy, though, perhaps, not generally noticed, between the circulation of blood in the animal system, and the circulation of the no less vivifying current through the intricate labyrinths of the natural world. Thus, the streams which are here filtered through icy caverns flow into the Mediterranean,† and there evaporated, and in the form of clouds carried back and condensed in these elevated regions, descend once more in rain or snow—again to leap down in fertilizing streams to the plain, and perform the same revolutionary function of evaporation, condensation, and liquefaction. The nicely balanced proportions, and the exquisitely adjusted regularity with which this vital process is conducted, are beautiful illustrations of the beneficent designs of Providence in adapting those otherwise destructive

* The View is taken at this point, looking back towards Bernardino—the avalanche is seen in the act of falling, which explains the nature of the gallery.

† By evaporation the ocean loses many millions of gallons hourly; the Mediterranean, by the same process, is supposed to lose more than it receives from the Nile, the Tiber, the Rhone, the Po, and all the other rivers that fall into it.



phenomena to the wants and happiness of man. The truth of this is still more forcibly impressed upon us, when we reflect that even a momentary suspension of this law might prove fatal to the globe we inhabit, and derange the whole system of nature.

The sight of a human habitation erected near the margin of this dismal lake, and designed as a house of refuge, is the only feature which breaks and relieves the dreary monotony of the scene *. Here, during those sudden hurricanes to which every Alpine pass is less or more exposed, travellers obtain shelter and refreshment, but as the journey across the *col* may be performed in a few hours, even by pedestrians, it seldom becomes a place of more than very temporary halt. By those who travel post, the journey between the two capitals of the Grisons and Tessin may be performed in one day.

While we stood shivering in this gelid receptacle, waiting the result of a rude effort to repair a fracture of the pole and splinter bar of our *drogue*, attention was directed to a group of three Tessinesi, in earnest conversation, and who had just arrived from the opposite side of the mountain. Two of the party were apparently about the ages of twenty five and thirty—the younger in a hunter's dress, the other in that of the upper class of *contadini*, or small proprietors. The third had the air and manner of one who enjoyed some station of authority in his own valley, he spoke in a purer accent, and, by the reverent attention paid him by his two companions, it was evident he possessed their respect and confidence. The question agitated appeared to be one of no common import, and upon which the judgment of the elder was anxiously appealed to. "Pietro," said he, addressing the younger of his companions, and in an impressive tone and manner, "I entirely disapprove of your rash project—the path has been long impracticable—the *laranges* are in motion—the hurricane is not far from us—and these, and other insurmountable obstacles render it impossible for you to reach Calanca in the time and manner you propose." "Then, *padre mio*," said the hardy and athletic hunter, "I am indeed miserable—if there be no path left in the way and time I propose, the path to happiness is for ever closed to Pietro Muratini." "*Caro figlio*," rejoined the elder, in a sympathizing tone, "the *curé* will have assured her but this morning that there was nothing to apprehend—that the report was unfounded—and that business alone detained you at Coire." "Yes—but will she believe him? will she be soothed—tranquil?" inquired the hunter, impatiently. The elder made no reply, but the third, who had not yet spoken, admitted that such efforts were but too likely to fail to comfort her, and that one small hope alone would serve to keep her suspended

* Or View is taken at this point, looking down towards the *Rheinwald*.

over the brink of despair. "And what is that hope?" eagerly inquired the other. "The hope that the courier, who has now passed, and who will reach the village by midnight, will soften, or disprove, the fearful catastrophe."

"And will this hope be realized? Will the tidings now on the wing yield consolation or despair? Has not the courier left the *col* with the full assurance that the rumour was confirmed?—that escape was impossible?"—The other was silent. "And shall I hesitate then," he continued, "to run all hazard, when I reflect that even *now* she has taken her stand on the bridge—there to watch till midnight—and then to sink under the first piercing salutation that shall reach her ear?"

"*Compiango e prendo parte alla tua afflizione!*" replied the other, in a low and soothing tone.—"How much then of agony," resumed the former, "would not a few hours—even a few minutes—spare her, could I by this much earlier reach my own door in the direction proposed—the only alternative left me!"

"My son, my son!" resumed the elder, "the danger is imminent, and the adoption of such a course could not fail to ensure a calamity from which there could be no escape—the sacrifice of a life which the special interposition of Providence alone has so lately preserved!" A profound silence followed this appeal—but only for a few seconds—during which the young hunter, covering his face with his hands, and resting his head upon his knees, seemed as if he struggled hard to overcome the emotion which now shook and agitated his whole frame.

Then starting up with an air of passionate inspiration—"The dangers," said he, "are nothing—life itself is nothing—and its loss only to be lamented when incurred in a bad cause. But to lose that, which she will inevitably lose for me, unless I can yet outstrip the evil tidings now hastening towards her, is nothing, and, by the help of San Nicholas, I can and will follow the suggestions of heaven and my own heart!"

Thus saying, they both once more implored him to reflect. "Nay, my friend, forbid me not, I entreat you. What I have so often dared as her lover, shall I now shrink from as her husband? No! And you, my father! why dissuade that husband from performing—as the last and most important duty of his life—what you yourself have so often performed for your pleasure as a hunter?"

"Alas!" said the elder, "that track is no longer what it was then—or, rather, the track is obliterated—the chasms are deep and treacherous—the precipices insurmountable—the torrents which thwart the course wild and impassable—and the boldest hunter in the Grisons is now a stranger to the ancient track. Reflect then, for an instant; a prudent and timely pause may spare more than one life."



Distressed by the apparent inference, the young mountaineer lifted his eyes in mute, but expressive, appeal to the speaker, then in an impassioned tone of soliloquy, added "In an hour of apparent security, and when all Santa Maria were making merry to receive them, she lost her father and brother but in the midst of apparent dangers—when all seems dark and discouraging—heaven, in compensation, shall yet restore her husband, and spare a pang which this ill timed delay threatens to inflict Thus, then, I devote myself to her cause, all should I requite her affection if I longer hesitated to defeat the messenger whose tidings to her are words of despair

"Stay, my son, said the veteran, as the former sprang to his feet, "take my blessing upon thy head! Though I have dissuaded thee with the partial and selfish feelings of a parent, I now withdraw my objections go as thou wilt—dangers thou must encounter, and mayest overcome—but even these, appalling as they seem, are yet less formidable than the excruciating suspense of the present hour, on which depends all the happiness of thy future days Go, then, in peace by the succour of heaven, and thy own prudence and intrepidity, we shall yet meet happily in the vale of Calanca'

As these words were pronounced, a sudden gleam of joy gave new life and expression to his fine countenance, and the young athlete, pronouncing a hearty *addio*, rushed forward on his perilous journey

"Poor hoy' ejaculated the elder, as his eyes could follow him no longer, "may the blessing of the Madonna del Sasso surround his steps, and conduct him in safety to his already despairing partner'" In this aspiration his companion devoutly participated, adding, "Ah! short time indeed since her poor father and brother perished by an avalanche—the very day their presence was to have sanctioned her marriage with your son

"Alas! rejoined the elder, "and should the courier, with whom my unfortunate hoy was expected, anticipate him—as it is but too probable he will—what must be the consequence!—how shall a heart like her's bear up under the dreadful assurance that the same calamity which made her so lately an orphan, has also left her a bereaved widow!

But here we were summoned to resume our seats, and put our recent repairs to the test—a movement which, though it interrupted, did not diminish the deep interest awakened by the last ten minutes in the *refuge* of Bernardino, and we resolved, should we again visit the *Italian* side of the mountain, to make special inquiry after the hero of our digression, and learn the result of a conjugal devotion so truly noble

To describe the descent towards the *Hinter Rhein*, would only be to

recapitulate, in a great measure, what we have already attempted in our general sketch of the savage grandeur which marked our ascent. The road preserves the same uniform and gentle inclination; and, by a long series of tourniquets, pursues its twisted and sinuous course from steep to steep, lessening—as much as human labour, skill, and ingenuity can lessen—the numerous dangers, in the various forms of avalanche, rock, and precipice, which severally overhang, block up or undermine the route, and threaten to assail us from below, as well as from above.

After some progress downwards, the valley of Hinter Rhein is suddenly descried—profoundly scooped out of the wild landscape beneath us; and although not reposing “like beauty in the lap of horror,” it forms a pleasing line of demarcation between the regions of absolute chaos, and those destined for the support of life and vegetation. With the vale of Misocco still fresh in our mind’s eye, the contrast forced upon our view by the aspect of this—the first valley of Switzerland, gradually developed—seemed as strongly marked as the respective boundaries of Tartarus and Elysium in the page of classic mythology.

“Stabat acuta silex, præcisus undique saxa.
Hinc atque hinc, vastæ rupes,” &c.

The wild glaciers of the Rhine, like the diadem of an eternal winter, frown on our left—now obscured, and now flickering through the subtil vapours, suspended like azure drapery over their rugged and trackless precipices. Through the desolate and savage defile, and bounding over a succession of rapids which churn its water to foam, the *hinter* branch of the Rhine gushes riotously through the gorge, while the never-slumbering echoes spread and perpetuate the thunders of its course.

“Nunc ruit opposito nivibus de monte solutis,
Et turpi crassas gurgite solvit aquas.”

The village of Hinter-Rhein appears like a mere speck in the vastness of the encircling mountains, which, by their frowning aspect, seem to express the reluctance they feel to tolerate the presence of man—addressing him at every step with a *ne plus ultra* to his ambition! Man, nevertheless, unintimidated by the awful voice, continues his encroachments—entrenching himself in the very preserves allotted to the mountain spirits—struggling in the very grasp of annihilating power, he still grapples for supremacy, and some fresh extent of his jurisdiction.

Such a territory as this, and held by such a tenure, was a fitting cradle for the spirit of liberty and the healthful expansion of that glorious inheritance which, in the bleakest vale of Switzerland, are more inspiring than all the treasures of

the south. In a region like this, he who from infancy has imbibed health of mind and vigour of body by fearless exposure to the climate and daily conflict with the elements, has bought independence at its highest price, and ensured its possession by the strongest of all bonds—"the resolve to be free!"

"Hos animat patriæ pietas, et dulcis amœnæ
Libertatis amor."

In the early stage of our descent we were gratified by the unexpected appearance of a *lammergheyer*. Sailing through the air in solitary contemplation, he no doubt views with peculiar complacency those scenes where he is the only despot suffered to levy his tribute at the expense of life—without, at least, incurring some personal risk in the exercise of his tyranny. We have already, in an early portion of this work, alluded cursorily to the surprising strength and rapacity of this "scourge of the desert," and the fact of its attacking even oxen in some parts of this canton. The war of extermination which the lammergheyer carries on against the chamois, is well described by Ramond. Like other despots, he requires an exclusive territory to subsist in, and it is rare that two of them are seen together in the same region: they would starve each other in a country capable of supporting a multitude of their subjects. It is against the chamois—who has the same agility on the ice and rocks that the lammergheyer has in air—that he exerts his whole force and address. The former sports upon the toppling verge of precipices—flies over distances, to the extremes of which it would seem that wings only should transport him. He scales summits so steep and sharp that their apex would not afford room for the feet of any other animal to rest upon: he precipitates himself from the pinnacles of rocks without fear of breaking his long springs of steel, and bounds over chasms which would prove an effectual harrier to any other animal. With such proofs of agility, great strength must necessarily be conjoined; and these together render the chamois a prey by no means unworthy to exercise the exploits of this most formidable of birds.

Rousing his victim in those retired and inaccessible valleys where the chamois pasture together, the lammergheyer attacks, frightens, and forces him to seek safety in flight. The rocks being the only resource of this timid animal, to these he appeals in his distress; but the vulture, still pursuing, compels him to continue his flight higher and higher. He vaults across the frozen snows, darts from summit to summit, until stopped short upon a shelving projection over some abyss, he has no alternative but to face his ruthless adversary. Seeing his victim thus isolated, the lammergheyer employs a *ruse de guerre*—turns him round

and round, and makes a feigned swoop at him; while the chamois, to parry these sham attacks, points his horns at the aggressor, and endeavours to shew game. But at the instant he thus puts himself on guard, the very posture of defence makes his equilibrium extremely critical; the *Lämmergheyer* now boldly advancing, hurls him by a stroke of his powerful wing to the base of the precipice, and dropping down after him, with all the self-importance of a victor, finishes the business by a stroke of his beak, and enjoys the feast in his own way.

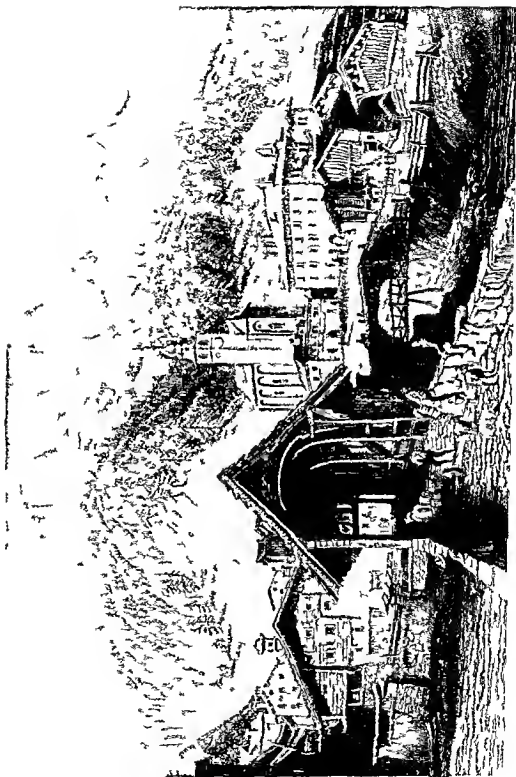
During the spring, avalanches are not unfrequent in this stage of the descent, where, a few years ago, the landamman of Roveredo, and another, passengers by the Coire diligence, were lost in one.*

Pursuing our course along the deep gorge and capricious windings of the Rheinwald, the stern features of German Switzerland become more and more developed; the mountain-slopes are covered with the brightest turf; the pine forests extend their shadowy ramifications along the steeps; and, crossing the torrent, the simple white-washed church, and the twenty neat Swiss cottages, or upwards, which compose the hamlet of Hinter-Rhein, attest our actual presence in the land of TELL.

From this village—enjoying a cool elevation of near five thousand feet, with a six weeks' or two months' summer—the valley slopes gently through Naufanen, towards the hamlet, or rather town, of Splügen; and, in that space, makes a descent of nearly four hundred feet. The interval is filled up with scenes of great pastoral beauty, in which the sterile and even terrific features of our previous route are softened down into the verdant and picturesque. The town of Splügen consists of from forty-five to fifty houses—several of these very handsome—with rather better than three hundred inhabitants, and being the point of junction between the two great roads from Italy, presents an agreeable air of commercial prosperity. The quarries in the neighbourhood afford various specimens of excellent marble, of which the white is in high repute among sculptors, and considered as little, if at all, inferior to that of Carrara. The inhabitants, like those of Hinter-Rhein, are all of German extraction, and profess the doctrine of the reformation. The covered bridge which here spans the Rhine—the View of which is taken from the opposite side, looking towards the church and the inn—is a fine specimen of pontific architecture, as it prevails in Switzerland.

Here the magnificent route which conducted us across the Bernardino becomes identified with that over the Splügen—the union of which, along the Rhine,

* The passengers were walking when the alarm was given, and two were swept off in its course.—*Blackrock.*



forms the great line of social and commercial intercourse with Coire, Wallenstadt, the lake of Constance, Germany on the right, the whole course of the Rhenish provinces to the ports of Holland, and, in a word, between the shores of the Levant and the German Ocean

The important question of opening this new pass, which had previously been only practicable for beasts of burden, was decided and acted upon in the course of 1816. Down to the period which, ten years prior to this, witnessed the completion of the great routes over Mont Cenis and the Simplon, the passes over the Brenner and Tenda were the only media of transport upon which wheel-carriages could be employed. But now that peace was re-established, national prejudices subsiding, and a spirit of commercial enterprise revived, the Grisons, pursuing a line of policy which reflects the highest credit upon them, entered into engagements for carrying their plans into effect. As a contribution towards the expense of the enterprise, the canton of Tessin, whose interests were so completely involved in the success of the measure, agreed to advance two hundred thousand francs, and to charge themselves with the extra expense of completing and improving that portion of the route which connects the Grison frontier with Bellinzona. This liberal offer, however, was met by numerous interruptions and objections on the part of Austria, and every means employed to defeat a measure which, if once carried, could not fail most materially to diminish the amount of revenue collected on the Splügen. Thus influenced, the Tessinese rescinded their previous engagements in due form, and now, obstinately blind to their own domestic prosperity, opposed with vigour what at first they had so warmly espoused. Similar experiments were tried upon the Grisons, but they—neither conciliated by flattery, nor intimated by threats—were plain spoken on the subject, and stated, in terms not to be mis understood, that should they be subjected to further interruption in the prosecution of a plan so obviously framed, not on selfish principles, but for the general encouragement of industry and commerce, they would retaliate by closing the route over the Splügen—so far, at least, as it came within their jurisdiction. This argument of course ended the diplomacy. The works proceeded with alacrity under the direction of Pocobelli, a native company, formed after the English fashion, subscribed liberally in shares. While the Sardinian government continued to advance numerous subsidies during the progress of the works, besides permitting the free importation of grain into the Grisons.*

* The people of the canton who lived on the line of the projected road advanced 60 000 Swiss francs and the king of Sardinia in whom the project found a ready advocate by a Convention made in 1813 with the government of the Grisons contributed 250 000 francs, a sum which was afterwards extended to

After six years' labour, kept up with great skill and activity, and often under circumstances of much personal risk, as well as physical difficulties, this magnificent route was finally opened in 1824, and is now one of the best and safest thoroughfares of the Alps.*

Resuming our route from the Splügen, we gradually descend towards the gorge of the Rofla, pass the village of Suvers on the left, and, crossing the river on a truly Alpine bridge, enter this gloomy defile. Here the Rhine, tortured in its imprisoned boundaries, buffeted, struggling, and covering the rocks with its spray, bounds on and downward from rock to rock in a succession of wild-cataracts which it is impossible to contemplate without feelings of terror and astonishment. The volume of water compressed in its tempestuous channel—formed by a dark and irregular chasm, overshadowed by a dismal chaos of rocks, and logs of pine—relieved only by the flashing waves—the roar and reverberation of the caverns, as they greedily imbibe and boisterously eject the headlong stream, form altogether a scene which few imaginations can exaggerate.

The entrance to this defile opens through an archway of about seventeen yards long, and hewn out of the rock. Looking back from this gallery, the course of the Rhine, with the foot-bridge across it, and the village of Suvers, already mentioned, present a scene at once pastoral and highly picturesque. Proceeding along the brink of the torrent, the din and discord are sensibly augmented: huge pines, bleached and mutilated by the storm—there arrested by opposing rocks, and here floating singly, or in shivered fragments, upon the torrent—bespeak its increased impetuosity; and, following the sound, we soon behold the whole stream hurried by one impetuous plunge over a ledge of precipitous rocks—dissipated in a cloud of spray†—and boiling up like steam from an immense cauldron. The grand and imposing effect of this scene, however, is produced rather by the wild and savage character of its accompaniments than by the fall itself, which, in point of height, is inconsiderable; but the great volume of the water, and the thunder and precipitation with which it descends, strike the spectator as peculiarly bold, and even terrific.

395,000; and further agreed to allow the annual transit, free of duty, of 30,000 quintals of grain and rice from Sardinia into the Grisons: he also tendered his good offices and interference wherever they could be employed in aid of the enterprise . . . The expense of constructing this road (twenty-four leagues in extent), including compensation to the proprietors on its line, did not amount to 80,000*l.* sterling.—BROCKEDON'S *Excursions in the Alps*.

* In March, 1799, General Lecourbe marched his detachment across the Bernardino, an enterprise which at that period presented obstacles to the progress of an army which subsequent labour and ingenuity have greatly obviated.

† The View illustrative of the scene here presented is taken from this point.





In the midst of this dreary gorge human industry has also found means of occupation and profit, in the preparation of charcoal and the management of saw-mills, where the trees felled in the upper stages of the mountain, and lowered by a purposely constructed *slide*,* are shaped and sawed into planks.

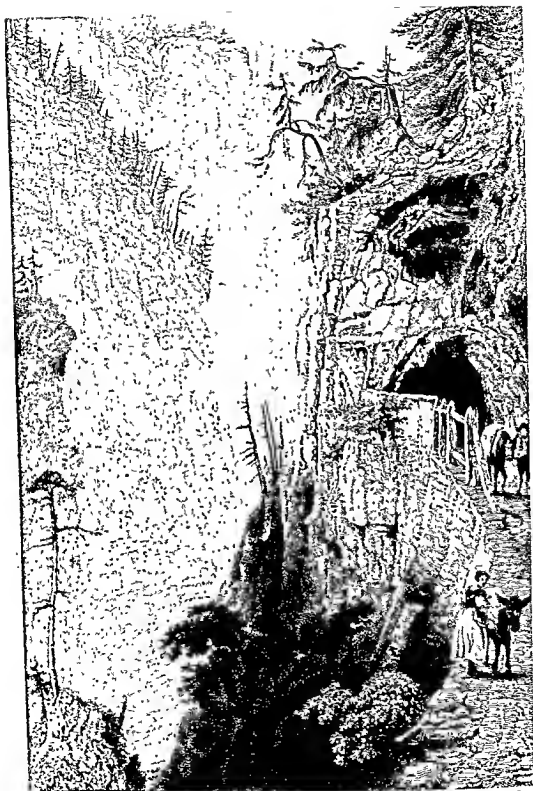
At the extremity of the Val-Ferrara, the road is carried over a stupendous cataract of the Aversa, where the latter falls into the Rhine. The castle of Barenburg, as we enter by an angulated descent into the valley of Schams—*Sexamniensis*—harmonizes well with the scene which now loses its austere aspect, and softens into the picturesque. The extent of this valley is about two leagues, bounded on the south by the Rheinwald, and on the east by the Val-Ferrara: the natives are Protestants, and speak *Romanche*. It is remarkable for a breed of goats, with horns like the chamois, and uniting, to a certain extent, the appearance and peculiarities of the two. The Castellasch, above Clugien, the old church of Mathorn, and the environs of the village of Lohn, are considered as offering the most striking and characteristic points of view. The view from Mont Beverin is most extensive. Nearly half way between the Rofla and Via Mala, the neat little town of Andeer, containing upwards of four hundred inhabitants, offers a pleasing reception to the traveller who would make a day's halt between the two gorges, and survey the numerous beauties which that short space embraces.

Among the numerous scenes presented to us in the sublime solitudes of the Alps, or which the strength of imagination had invested with peculiar horror, that of the Via Mala stands forth in fearful preeminence. It seems, indeed, the vestibule of desolation, conducting us into the very jaws of horror, and plunging us into the seeming precincts of a nether world. Much had been told us by preceding travellers of this defile, and much had been read and fancied of the dismal gorge, the precarious precipice, and the boiling whirlpool at its base—but all these fell short of the reality, and all previous imaginings became effaced by a personal investigation. The materials, it is true, are every where the same, but here they are so wildly arranged, so peculiarly grouped and disposed, as to form a picture which, perhaps, has no parallel among those awful recesses which have hitherto been thrown open for the convenience or the curiosity of man.

The interval between the bridges is the point where the distinctive features of this defile are more especially concentrated, and where the Demon of the Gorge manifests his presence by the display of every attribute that can surprise, startle, or appal, the spectator. The yawning avenue through which we slowly advance

* A particular account of these timber rail-roads—their construction, and velocity of conveyance—will shortly be given in our description of the Slide of Alpach.





The length of this defile is about three miles, every rood of which presents the wildest combinations, and, in the sombre twilight, opens upon the solitary pilgrim like the "region of the shadow of death." As a point where all its peculiar features are assembled in a single *coup-d'œil*, it is customary to halt on the arch of the middle, or Patten-bruck, and from its narrow parapet to throw pieces of rock into the Rhine which, at a depth of several hundred feet, appears diminished to a thread of foam. Here the sides of the chasm are so perpendicular, that a stone let drop from the parapet falls at once into the torrent. On turning the eyes upwards, the threatening cliffs, darkly fringed with pines, and appearing to meet over head, offer so narrow a stripe of sky, that the spectator, in contemplating the scene above and below him, feels as if suspended between heaven and hades, and holding his existence by momentary tenure.* There is a powerful passage in Shelley's tragedy of the *Cenci*, which will afford the reader a vivid idea of scenes like the present.

The ruins of an ancient castle, perched on a rock which seems to shut up the pass, are singularly effective; and at this point the sudden transition from the gloom of the *Verloren-loch*, into the serene and beautiful valley of Domschleg—rich in verdant pastures, and sprinkled with villages—occasions a delightful surprise by the new and pleasing impressions with which it relieves the spectator's mind. This scenery has been so accurately described by a native and resident bard, that we hope a few lines of extract from the original, will not be unacceptable to some of our German readers.†

* Our first View of this defile is taken from the second bridge; our next comprises the gallery and bridge; our third View shows the gallery of the *Trou Perdu*, or *Verloren loch*, from the opposite side looking back.

† The remarkable objects in the valley of S. hams are thus enumerated: "Einst durch des Rheingewässers menge so ausgefüllt, so hoch aufstand, bis er da keinen Raum mehr fand dann sich durch jener fels enge ob *Via-Mala* eine bahm aus durchs *Verloren-loch* gewann, und so der name "*See*" verschwunden es fragt sich nun: Wo ginge man von *Rheinwald* aus bis *Tusis* dann? Von *Surers* bis den Berg hinauf, von dort noch weiter, hoher auf durch den *Anderer* Berg und Wälden durch der *Arosen Alp* und Thal wo man noch jetzt sieht überall viel Spuren auf derselben Haiden von dort durch Felsenwege fort bis man dann endlich zu den Ort herunter kam, der *Tusis* heisset. Trett auf! du *Via Mala*, so genannt sprich selbst: Warum man dich so sehr verkennet? Dem *Wüster* nahm ist überall bekannt woher, das man noch immer *Eds* dich nennet? Auf Wehre dich! es ist grad jetzt die zeit dass die mit aller offenhertzkeit den *Wahren* grund angabst samt der *Geschichte*." &c. &c. &c.

To the tourist who would farther satisfy himself as to the "march of intellect" in this part of the *Grisons*, we would recommend the work "*Geschichte und Gedächte*, &c. von *M. Conrad*, V. D. *M. Andeer*," which will convince him that if there be some poetry in this region of the Alps, there is, also, much patriotism. The preceding passage, as the reader will perceive, is in rhyme, and a quotation from the "*Geschichte*."

The next halting-place in our route is the lively and bustling little town of Tüsis, with a population of six or seven hundred, who profess the Protestant faith, and form, so to speak, a colloquial frontier between the German and *Romanche*. The Domleschgertal, of which it is the capital, is a continuation of the Schamsertal, and, in point of fertility, climate, and cultivation, may be described as the Devonshire of the ancient Rætia. Here the Rhenish grape first arrives at maturity, and gives evidence of those qualities for which it is so distinguished in its subsequent course. The environs present numerous objects of attraction, one of which, the Schloss-Unterstagstein—a chateau built after the modern taste, and commanding a view in which every variety of landscape is strikingly embodied—will amply repay the traveller whom leisure, and love of scenery, may induce to take the view from its windows. Here also he will behold, in much of its native horror, the frightful gorge of the Via Mala from which he has just escaped. The ravine, through which the Nolla has so often discharged its destructive torrents—the periodical scourge of the valley—will afford to the naturalist much curious matter for investigation, and to every observer a field of vast and variegated interest. The inundations, for which this torrent claims a mournful notoriety, become at times suddenly dark and grumous, owing to their copious admixture with the torrents of mud and schistous decomposition, produced by subterraneous *éboulements* of the Lüschersee, a lake on Mount Tschappina, where the pasture has suffered greatly from this cause. The Nolla, at certain periods, has been so completely saturated and swollen by these adventitious floods,* as to stem, or so far impede the course of the Rhine at its conflux, and thereby occasion great devastations in the valley and imminent danger to the town. These regurgitations of the river are still frequent, and always formidable; so that there is much to be apprehended which no sagacity can foresee, nor precaution avert. So deeply impregnated is the Rhine, on these occasions, with the foreign substance conveyed into it by the Nolla, that it is said not to recover its cerulean tint till after it has left the Grison frontier. Twenty-five years ago, the ravages thus occasioned were numerous and severe, and left many vestiges behind them which no labour has hitherto been able to efface. The loss of territory is thus of frequent recurrence; and here, where a fertile field, or even a fruit-tree, is of such importance to the inhabitants, the mud-torrent becomes as much a calamity as the lava-flood of the South.

* The lake, or morass, which supplies these mud-torrents, seems of a peat or marly consistence, which, accumulated beyond a certain point, is carried down by a sudden disrapture of the basin into the Nolla, of which the popular description of the "Solway-flow," in our own country, will give the reader the nearest idea to the phenomenon in question.

This valley has long enjoyed a peculiar traffic in its dried fruits, which are prepared after a peculiar fashion, and sold in considerable quantities for exportation. It is a common saying here, that the water of Tuis is better than the wine of Bormio; and there certainly is something peculiarly good in the quality of the fountains—though still too little, probably, to convince the ordinary traveller, and justify the proverb—more particularly if he consults the worthy host of the *Croix Blanche*, before filling his cup at the *Craptaig*.*

On leaving Tuis the effect of the inundations is more striking, the scenery relaxes in its severity, and the bright verdure of Switzerland becomes identified; ruined towers—the relics of feudal times, but subsequently turned to some account in the cause of freedom—chapels and oratories, each with its legend of war, witchcraft, or Grison valour, sprinkle and diversify the heights. This portion of the route is highly interesting for the natural beauties by which it is enclosed, as well as rich in historical recollections. From an eminence near Retzins there is a remarkably fine view of the river, the convent, and numerous other characteristic features harmoniously grouped—among which is a bridge thrown over a wooded ravine, and in its position peculiarly effective.

"The scene—the hour—the convent's mellow chime
Revive the legends of departed time;
And flitting round me, forms and shadows dim,
With mystic voices swell the vesper hymn"

The castle, or rather village, of Reichenau, is pleasantly situated at the conflux of the two principal branches of the Rhine, and remarkable for its two covered bridges, one of which has replaced the still more famous one, burnt down in 1799, and constructed by the celebrated Grubemann, after the plan of his chef-d'œuvre formerly at Schaffhausen. From the castle gardens we enjoy a superb view of the environs, the confluence of the Upper and Lower Rhine; the former, of an emerald tint and of larger volume, acquires a deeper shade by intermixture with the latter, which, as already mentioned, holds the deep colouring matter received from the Nola in suspension for many leagues. In May, 1799, Reichenau was the scene of a bloody rencontre between the natives and the French.

Towards the close of the last century an excellent institution was here set on foot by the elder Tschanner, for the education of youth, but which, owing to the unhappy circumstances of that period, and others of a more private nature, it

* Une source qui jaillit de la base d'un rocher qu'on appelle Craptaig, et qui s'élève au-delà du ravin de la Nolla, fournit une eau délicieuse — *Heidegger*.

was found impossible to continue. In this castle the society in management of the mines of Tiefenkasten hold their meetings, and here, also, are their magazines. From this point rafts, freighted with from twenty to fifty quintals, are floated down the Rhine as far as the Lake of Constance, and as we gaze on its banks we cannot hut exclaim—

"Once more,—from solitudes that nurse the storm,
In clouds where lightnings flash and whirlwinds form—
Regions, which scarce the chamois' feet explore,—
'Tis sweet to linger on the Rhenish shore!"

From Reichenau to Coire the scenery, though still fine, suffers not a little by contrast with what we have just passed, and which appears more beautiful as we look back upon it.

"Those flowery pastures where the forest bee
Alights with every breeze, and banquets free;
And Rhœna's Alpine summer sweetly throws
Around each step the perfume of the rose!"

Chur, or Coire, the ancient Curia Rhœtorum, and capital of the Grison League, is highly picturesque in situation, and, in its domestic economy, presents a *mélange* of German and Italian—but with the former predominant, and an air of Swiss freedom pervading the place and people. Its vestiges of Roman antiquity* are numerous, and under the name just stated, it formed the centre of a flourishing colony, by whom its previous territory was enlarged, strengthened, and improved. So early as the middle of the fifth century it was the see of a bishop: the cathedral was erected in 852, and contains in its archives several important grants of that and the following centuries. By long and persevering struggles it obtained, at last, its emancipation from the thralldom of its own bishops and the German empire, and in 1460 received from the latter the full acknowledgment of its independence,

"Matured by hardy virtues through long years."

On the 19th October, 1798, Coire, at the request of the League, was occupied by Austrian troops, and a *levée en masse* ordered to oppose the entrance of the French, who, at that time, had been received in every other part of Switzerland. On the 7th of March, the following year, the French took possession of all the chief passages as well as the capital of the Grisons; General Lecombe, at the

* In 1806, during some excavations near the anterior gate, the workmen discovered two hundred copper medals of Roman emperors, but which were indiscriminately sold by the finders.—EDEL.

same time, succeeded in his expedition by the Bernardino; while Leisen and Demont were equally successful—one by the Oberalp, from the Valley of Uri, the other by the Ganghelsberg; while fresh troops forced the passage of St. Lucia. In May following the Austrians returned to the charge, and on the 15th expelled the French from the Grisons. On the 5th October, General Suwarrow entered Coire at the head of the Russian army. In November the French again took possession, but were shortly after compelled by the Austrians to retreat. In July, the following year, the latter being attacked at every point in the Grison territory, were finally driven from Coire, and all the valleys of the Rhine. In November, the same year, General (afterwards Marshal) Macdonald passed through Coire, at the head of a second army of reserve, on his perilous march over the Splügen—an expedition of which we shall shortly speak.

. From the dominion of the Franks down to the commencement of the fifteenth century, the people of Upper Rhetia had been tributaries or vassals of the Bishop of Coire, the abbots of Disentis and Pfeffers, and other spiritual lords, as well as of numberless counts, barons, and nobles. The citizens of Coire, although enjoying various privileges under their episcopal lord, had many causes of complaint; whilst the poor in the villages endured a succession of the greatest hardships—plundered during the almost incessant broils of their great or petty lords, and oppressed and impoverished by their exactions in time of peace. Never had Uri, Schwytz and Unterwalden more merciless tyrants than Rhetia; but, like these, goaded on to a point past endurance, Rhetia also found her *Tell*.

In the Valley of Engadine, from whose glaciers the impetuous Inn rushes down towards the Tyrol, crowning a rocky eminence above the village of Maduleia, stood the castle of Gardeval,—the terror of the surrounding country. It happened that the castellan, passing one day through the opposite village of Camogask, was struck with the beauty of a young girl, daughter of a respectable peasant, who chanced to cross his path, and whom, like another Appian, he ordered his menials to seize and bring to his castle the same night. Long accustomed to the execution of such orders, the messengers soon appeared at the threshold of the girl's father, whose name was Adam. Readily surmising their errand, the father was horror-struck; and seeing his daughter overwhelmed with despair, made a powerful effort to disguise the indignation which boiled within him, and temporising with great presence of mind:—"My daughter," said he, "being quite unprepared for a message of such honour, I pray you grant her some little space to arrange her dress and ornaments, in order that she may

make her appearance with becoming dignity; and further, I beseech ye, assure his Grace that I will present her in person to him to-morrow morning."

Satisfied with this answer, the messengers returned to their master, while Adam, frantic with rage, and resolved to avenge the insult, hastened to communicate with his neighbours, and detailing the fact, exclaimed—"Are we men, or are we this lord's cattle?" His appeal was warmly responded to, and the effect electric. The same night a solemn vow was administered, by which they bound themselves either to put an end to the misery which desolated and degraded the valley, or to perish in the attempt.

Early next morning, Adam, in fulfilment of his promise, conducted his daughter in bridal attire to the castle, followed by several of the conspirators in procession, while others, well armed, had concealed themselves near the place to be ready to take advantage of the first signal. On perceiving the girl's arrival, the castellan quickly descended the steps, and advanced gaily to receive his expected victim from the hands of her father. The latter, however, while his daughter shrunk back to avoid the profane touch of the hand extended towards her, drew his sword, and plunged it into the tyrant's heart. Then, joined by his followers, and forcing an entrance into the castle, he despatched or secured the retainers within, and displaying the signal of freedom from the windows, fresh adherents poured in—Gardoval was delivered up to the flames, and, in one day the whole country below the sources of the Inn threw off the yoke of their oppressors.

About the same period (1430), an event in the rich pasture valley of Schams greatly expedited the cause of Grison liberty, and which we shall here briefly report. In the valley just named, delightfully situated amidst the highest Alps, and which we briefly noticed in our passage through the *Via Mala* (p. 91), the castles of Bärenberg and Fardun had been long notorious as the residences of two immitigable tyrants, from whom the inhabitants had long endured, in silent despondency, the grossest oppression, cruelty, and outrage. To this system of lawless despotism, John Chalder, as an example to all his brethren, had the uncompromising hardihood to stand singly opposed. An occasion speedily offered to bring his fortitude to the test; for the lord of Fardun having driven two of his horses to forage in Chalder's corn-field, the sturdy Grison was instantly roused into an act which sacrificed one of the animals on the spot. This fact was soon reported, and the offender sentenced to expiate it in irons and tortures, until his relations, by humiliating petitions, entreaties, and the payment of a heavy ransom, procured his release, and restored him to his family. Here, while he was one day seated with them at dinner, the lord of Fardun entered the apartment. The

family immediately rose to evince their respectful acknowledgment of his presence; but the disdainful lord returned their proffered homage by the disgusting act of spitting in the frugal soup served for dinner, and which they were just eating. This insult incensed Chalder beyond all sufferance: he seized the tyrant by the throat—"Swallow," cried he, "the soup thou hast so delicately seasoned!" and, thrusting his head into the scalding broth, he strangled him in his desperate gripe. He now hastened from his cabin, and raised the neighbourhood. All flew to arms, and, actuated by one resolute spirit, swore to rid the soil of their implacable task-masters. Their first act was to commit the castles of Färdun and Bärenberg to the flames, and sacrifice every retainer who opposed their purpose.*—This was the dawn of Grison liberty.

In point of extent, this canton is next to that of Berne, having a surface of one hundred and forty miles square. Forming the eastern frontier of Switzerland, with the Tyrol on the north, and the Lombardo-Venetian states on the south, it partakes, in language and national peculiarities, of the character of both countries, German and Italian. Its whole territory is one congeries of snow-clad Alps, interspersed with valleys, no less remarkable for their beauty and fertility than for the sublime and magnificent framework in which they are set. Here the works of nature are displayed in their most imposing forms; and here, too, the labour and ingenuity of man are seen in their most active and pleasing characteristics. By his incessant vigilance and industry the encroaching glacier, the landslip, and the avalanche, have been checked, removed, or modified into shapes and purposes essential to his comfort. Canals have been scooped, highways constructed, and bridges flung across chasms and defiles from the mere contemplation of which the stranger's eye shrinks back with instinctive horror. Here the watchful and hardy native has to maintain a daily conflict with the elements, and to guard against those awful manifestations of natural causes which neither times nor seasons can interrupt. Those dangers, however, to which, by the nature of the soil, he is exposed, serve only to strengthen his heart, and stimulate him to redoubled exertion. Amid scenes where the Lombard would starve or despair, the Grison secures ample remuneration for his labour, and, with its well-earned fruit, fosters the love of independence. The virtues of patience and perseverance are his natural inheritance, and, in a country where patriotism is felt and inculcated by all, the general prosperity is identified with his own, and elicits that labour of love which makes this land of Alps and glaciers a land of joy and fertility.

* For similar details, *vide* ZSCHOKKE'S *Hut* (Gern., ed. Zurich.)

It is only in consequence of the revolution of 1798 that the Grisons have been united to the confederation of Switzerland. The country consists of three leagues, or federative republics, namely, the Grey league—the league of the House of God—the league of the Ten Jurisdictions, with its subdivisions into superior and inferior—which comprise no fewer than thirty more, and in many respects, are not only mutually independent, but even independent of the supreme council. In criminal judicature each possesses the absolute power of life and death; and each, in the cases of common law, has its hereditary form, points, and usages, by which all questions of local interest are determined. The constitution recognizes no exclusive privileges nor distinctions of rank. The supreme power is vested in the general assembly of the councils and municipalities of all the communes. The grand council is composed of sixty-five members, with the president of the league at their head; and all matters intended to be brought before them are prepared by a federal commission of nine. The daily administration of business is managed by an inferior council of three magistrates. The tribunal of appeal for this canton takes cognizance, in the last instance, of all matters involving litigation, and is formed of nine judges. In the court of appeal at Coire, it becomes an indispensable qualification that the judges should possess an intimate knowledge of all the laws, usages, and bye-laws, as recognized throughout the thirty jurisdictions. To each of these bodies every league furnishes an equal proportion of members.

The population is estimated at 74,000, or upwards, of whom 46,000 belong to the Protestant, and 28,000 to the Catholic, persuasion. The reformed clergy constitute a general synod, with three federal or provincial subdivisions. The Catholic priesthood is composed of four chapters, over which the bishop of Coire presides; but the valleys of Poschiavo and Brusio are under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Como. Independently of the episcopal chapter of Coire, there are seven convents in the diocese, at the head of which is the celebrated abbey of Disentis. The schools of the canton are daily attracting more attention and support on the part of government. The great public seminary now established in the capital may boldly vie, in the abilities of its functionaries, and the success of its discipline, with any similar institution in the whole confederation. There is a gradual development of mind, a general desire of knowledge and improvement, manifested throughout the canton, where numerous reading societies have lately sprung up.

The military force of the canton consists of a militia, in which are comprised all males capable of bearing arms. The contingent supplies, as fixed by the law of the 7th of August, 1815, amount to 1,600 men, with a sum equivalent to 42,000 francs.

Of the inhabitants, it is calculated that nearly one half speak the *Romanche*, one-seventh, *Italian*; and three-eighths, *German*. Their manner of living varies according to the localities, but the majority are engaged in the occupations of agriculture, and a pastoral life. Little short of 100,000 head of cattle, the same number of sheep, 75,000 goats, and hogs in proportion, are pastured in the valleys during summer. The tillage, however, falls far short of the necessary supply of grain, one half of which is imported from other sources; but the various passes which traverse the canton richly compensate for other disadvantages, and act like so many channels opened for the express increase of its domestic prosperity.

There is no country where the theme of liberty is extolled and dwelt upon with more self-complacence than among the *Grey-leaguers*:—"Ours," say the peasants, "is the only republic in the world; and we the only free people! Touch the very smallest of our rights, and revolt will follow."* It must be confessed, however, that this conviction originates rather in an amiable partiality, than in strict comparison or examination of their real political condition. The liberty of the press is much restricted; legal questions are heard and determined with closed doors; and the deliberations of the representative, or great council, conducted in private—facts which certainly militate against a position so generally advanced on the score of freedom, but well compensated by many other important and unquestionable advantages. There is no existing tax, burden, or impost of any kind. The great thoroughfare for the transit of merchandise through the canton supplies, at a moderate custom-duty, an ample fund for the discharge of all expenses incurred by government.† For some years past, indeed, the revenue drawn from this source has so far exceeded the annual expenditure, that the surplus, about 50,000 francs, has been applied to the liquidation of a small public debt. The whole revenue of the canton amounts to about 150,000 francs.

With the exception of the northern chain, the mountains of which consist of argillaceous schist and limestone, all the *Grison Alps* are of primitive rock, and very rich in minerals,—particularly in iron. Various lead mines continue to be worked, as well as others of copper, silver, and even gold. The lakes are numerous but small. The *Rhine* and the *Inn* have their sources in this canton. Mineral springs, of which *St. Moritz* is the chief, are found and much frequented

* The tourist or reader who is studious of *Grison* character as it really is, will find much pleasure in the perusal of an authentic and graphic sketch of this canton by Mr Conway, 1830

† Namely. the salaries of public offices, military pay and accoutrements, construction and repair of public buildings, roads, bridges, and aqueducts, with an allowance of a crown per day to each member of the council during the term of session.

in every part of the country. The latter is situated in the Upper Engadine, on the margin of a small lake; and during the months of June, July, and August, is crowded with visitors—Swiss, German, and Italian. The properties, as furnished by an analysis of the spring, are nearly the same as those of Schwalbach Spa and Pyrmont, but are confidently reported by those who have tried them, as much more efficacious than their German rivals. One great disadvantage to the place is the want of an inn for the reception of invalids, and the comfort of visitors generally. The source lies nearly an English mile from the village; and to drink the water, the visitors have to walk or ride this distance, and while there, to put up with a miserable shed as the only protection from the changes of weather, which, at an elevation of 4,000 feet, and surrounded by glaciers, is here very capricious and searching during even the summer months above stated. It is a subject of astonishment to foreigners to observe the bad policy of government in not furnishing the necessary accommodation in a place which, from its natural beauties and medicinal attractions, might become one of the most frequented in Europe.

PASSES OF THE SPLÜGEN AND ST. GOTHARD.

*"But journeying home, how rapt his spirits rose—
How light his footsteps crushed St. Gothard's snows!
How dear seemed even the waste and wild Schreckhorn,
Tho' wrapt in clouds, and frowning as in scorn
Upon a downward world of pastoral charms!"* CAMPBELL.

RETRACING our steps through the valleys of Domischleg and Schams to the Splügen, the scenery appears as if we only saw it for the first time. The great land-marks are the same; but numerous objects, which had escaped us in our journey north, now start up on either hand, and enter into the most striking and varied combinations. The "banks of Rhine" seem cased in richer verdure, and the enclosing Alps of Beverin and Neerborn more boldly defined. Reichenau and Tüsis are particularly happy in their positions—each at the confluence of two rivers, and enjoying a soil and climate which, instead of suffering, seem fertilized and refreshed by their vicinity to the glaciers. In passing

through Reichenau, the bridge already mentioned invited a fresh inspection. It is constructed on a principle exactly opposite to that of the modern suspension-bridge, and consists of two lofty arches, composed of four tiers of timber, cut into blocks about five or six feet long, and resting on each other; these are firmly joined together by cross-beams, and between them is suspended the road; it is of great strength, and the vibration observed on the crossing of a heavy carriage scarcely perceptible.*

The elegant spire of Tüsis is a fine object in the landscape; where the natural sublimity of the picture is everywhere enriched by the labours of enlightened freedom and the relics of feudal despotism.

The gorge of the Via-Mala loses nothing of its terrific character by a re-visit. The story of the unhappy girl who was hurled into the abyss by her ghostly seducer, is recalled, with a doubly vivid sensation of horror, when standing on the very brink of the precipice where it is said that execrable deed was perpetrated.†

"That dismal gulf, from which the startled owl
Shrinks back in terror, and the spectred night
Sits throned in chaos' . . . Lo, in solemn cowl
A phantom nears the brink—while young and bright—
And trusting her betrayer,—mid the scowl
Of midnight, here the doomed one met his sight
Struggled—implored—till from the precipice
He spurned, and plunged his victim in the abyss!"

About three miles from this gorge, and close to the *Pigneuer-bad*, a Latin inscription records the completion of the route, and, at the same time, includes a lesson of sound political wisdom for the future observance of the Grey-leaguers.‡

Winding on through the glen of the Roffla, its savage features appear absolutely softened into the picturesque when compared with that from which we have just emerged. Sheds of charcoal burners, deserted mills and iron forges, huge piles of timber, and "wild-looking woodcutters, leaning on their rude staffs,

* For particulars see Walter's *Letters from the Continent*—HEIDIGGER—EZZL

† Le souvenir de l'action exécration d'un monstre de prêtre, qui, après avoir séduit une jeune fille, la précipita au fond de cet abîme, remplit l'âme de terreur et d'effroi!—EZZL

‡ The annexed are the words .

JAM . VIA . FATET
HOSTIUS ET . AMICIS .
CAVETE . RHETI .
SIMPLICITAS MORUM
ET UNIO
SERVAVENT AVITAM .
LIBERTATEM

with the savage air of Retzsch's Miners in the outlines to Fridolin," were among the prominent features of the pass. From the luxuriant forests which enclose this defile, most of the building timber used by the Milanese is transported in waggons across the Splügen and Bernardino.

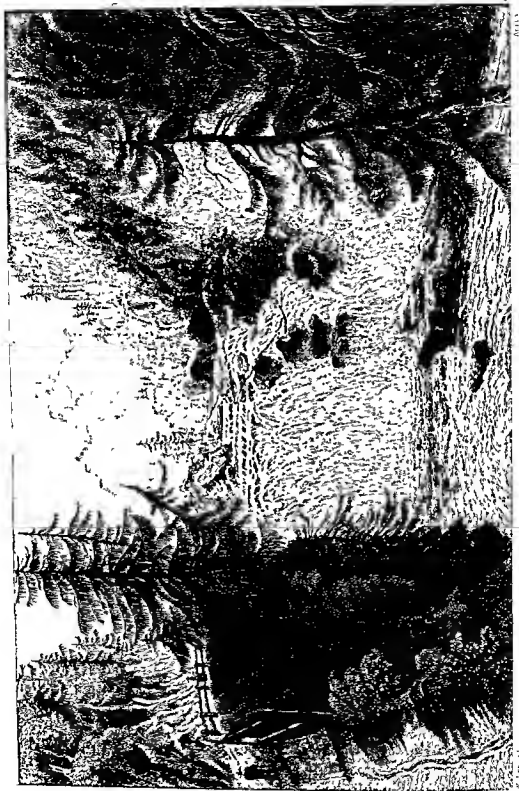
The route of the Splügen, which connects the valley of the Rhine with that of San-Giacomo, is one of the most ancient on record, and, within the last ten years, has been entirely reconstructed, widened, and secured. This great undertaking, in which the Austrian and Grison authorities, studying their own mutual interests, acted in concert, has opened another important channel of mercantile intercourse between the Rhine and Adriatic, along which every description of waggon is now conducted with comparative safety and despatch.

The highest point of the route is estimated by French engineers at 6,393 feet;* and although every thing that human ingenuity could devise has been employed to soften its asperities, and fortify the traveller against the dangers that threaten him, still its general features have lost nothing of their native and terrific aspect, and the stoutest heart will feel an involuntary shudder as the appalling brink of the Kardinell opens upon him.

Avalanches, though common in every department of the higher Alps, are peculiarly so in the canton of the Grisons, where they are reckoned upon as a periodical scourge, and, from time to time, commit the most deplorable ravages. In 1749, nearly the whole village of Rueras, in the Val-Tavetsch, was carried away by an avalanche, but with so little violence, that the inmates of several houses were not even roused from sleep by the catastrophe; and when they did awake, they were not aware, as they afterwards confessed, of their real situation, but greatly surprised at the length and darkness of the night! Of a hundred persons thus engulfed, sixty were rescued; but forty of their unhappy companions were swept away beyond the reach of human efforts. On the 10th of May, 1817, an avalanche fell into the gorge of Eins, at a short distance from Coire, and spread its skirts over a space of half a league in breadth—carrying along with it a mill, the dwelling-house and stables of the miller, and then discharging itself to a distance along the plain. No winter passes without a repetition of similar disasters, most of which involve a sacrifice of life more or less extensive, while others present remarkable instances of hair-breadth escapes under circumstances the most apparently hopeless and appalling.

In November, 1800, Marshal Macdonald passed the Splügen—at that time a

* Dr. Ebel makes it 6,170, and M. Glutz, 5,926—the truth lies between them.



mere mule path—at the head of his division, and after a series of disasters, supported with unparalleled fortitude, carried it on to victory in the plains of Marengo

Having briefly stated, in a former page, the great international benefits resulting from the new route over the Bernardino, we shall here also offer a few particulars respecting the still greater undertaking on the part of the Austrian government, by which the route over the Splugen has been adapted to carriage intercourse. The works, which were begun in 1818, under the direction of the head engineer, Donegana,* involved questions of the deepest interest in that science, as well as innumerable dangers from those natural causes against which it was impossible, by the lessons of experience or scientific calculations, to provide. The success which had crowned the works on the Simplon, however, had given such encouragement to every similar enterprise, that what had previously appeared insurmountable by human art, now assumed a perfect feasibility. The mind of the engineer, stimulated to redoubled exertion by the example of his predecessors, and the spur of more recent competition in the pass of the Bernardino, seems to have brought the whole weight of experience to bear upon this, the last field where such difficulties presented themselves, and, in the success of his undertaking, has added one more to those wonderful monuments already existing in the passes of the Alps. Among the numerous obstacles which opposed the execution of this hardy design, were, the peculiar hardness of the rocks to be split—the precipices to be bridged over or blocked out—the torrents and avalanche-tracks to be diverted, or otherwise disarmed and modified in their violence—the constant difficulty of preserving an uniform descent where the mountain was shattered and precipitous,—here to suspend the route along the flank of chasms, and there again, as in the Simplon, to carry it through the solid rock, or protect it by arches. Besides the numerous works upon which the road itself was supported, the engineer had to construct four arched galleries, varying in length from 300 to 600 feet and upwards, with three houses of refuge. In the plan and construction of the whole route, the happiest combination of elegance and solidity is every where apparent, it preserves a nearly uniform breadth of from fifteen to eighteen feet,† protected, on every assailable point, by strong wooden balustrades, and with a slope and ascent so gradual, as scarcely to require much additional strength or precaution on the part of the conductor or his team.

* Antonio Talachini, of Milan was the *asfaltatore*, or engineer in chief, for the route of the Splugen, and Donegana his assistant.—*БРОКЕРОВ* Les travaux furent confiés à la Compagnie Talachini sous la direction de M. Donegana.—*ЕНЕЛ*.

† The breadth within the Austrian frontier is eighteen in that of the Grisons fifteen feet.

That part of the route to which we more particularly allude, as within the Austrian territory, was completed in about two years; but the remainder, namely, that from the Grison frontier to the village of Splügen, ran some hazard of being postponed; for the funds just expended upon the route of the Bernardino, had so far weakened the Grison exchequer, that fresh resources could not be found to meet the expenses required for its completion. At this critical juncture, the proposal on the part of Austria, to finish what had been so successfully begun, was wisely accepted by the canton, and the remainder of the route, under the direction of Lera, a skilful engineer, carried triumphantly to its junction with that of the Bernardino.

From the village of Splügen, the highest point of the passage is reached in about two hours; while to perform the whole journey to Chiavenna, requires seven or eight. The elevation of this route falls short of the highest point on the Bernardino by about seventy feet. During a distance of *twelve* leagues and a half on the Swiss side, the route gradually ascends, and in that space reaches an elevation of 4,677 feet. From Chiavenna, on the contrary, situated about 737 feet above the level of the sea, the ascent in the space of *six* leagues and a quarter is 5,776 feet, which shows the comparative abruptness of the rise on the opposite flank. From the time of the Romans down to the middle ages, those over the Julier and Septimer were the only passes frequented by travellers from the north or south. By the latter of these, the distance from Coire to Chiavenna is twenty-one leagues, a succession of up-and-down hill, while by the Splügen it is only eighteen, with the great advantage of a regular and very gentle slope.*

It is by no means certain if what is found in the Itinerary by Antoninus concerning the road from *Curia* to *Tarvesede*, and thence to Chiavenna, has relation to any route over the Splügen; but it is certain, that in the twelfth century a communication existed between the village of Isola on the southern flank of the Splügen, and Neufannen in the Rheinwald. At that period there was an inn near the Schneehorn, which, as well as the *col* itself, has been covered for ages by an immense glacier, through the surface of which the bell of the buried hospice having emerged, was transported to Isola. At what precise period the glacier of Tamho extended itself so as to block up this ancient track by the

* Although several armies have been dispatched from Germany into Italy, particularly in the middle age, and although several emperors have sent troops through the Grisons to the Lake of Como, the route pursued has always been over the Septimer. The Splügen was only attempted successfully by the Swiss confederates and Grisons in the sixteenth century, on occasion of their battles fought in Italy; and subsequently in the early part of the seventeenth century, when the Spaniards had a garrison at Chiavenna. From the latter period, down to the close of the last century, profound peace reigned in the Alps, till interrupted by the invasion of French troops.

Schneehorn, is unknown, but the learned Dr Ebel, who has weighed the subject, refers it to the commencement of the fourteenth century, when, for the first time, the track over the Splügen offered a substitute for the former, and, following the glens of the Piz Beverin, re established the communication between Chiavenna and Thusis

About the middle of the fifteenth century, when, by the gigantic efforts of a free people, the gorge of the Rofla and Via Mala had been rendered practicable, the passage of the Splügen rose into fresh importance, and as it opened a line of direct intercourse between Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, rivalled the St Gothard as a medium of traffic These paths, just broad enough for the employment of beasts of burden during summer, and of small sledges in winter, presented in those days nearly the same facilities, dangers, and accidents, for the transport of merchandize, but since the construction of the new routes, and notwithstanding the efforts made on the part of the canton of Uri to keep pace with the march of improvement, the route over the St Gothard, with which so many striking recollections are associated, has lost one half of its commercial importance

The advantages conferred upon commerce in particular, are proved by the simple fact, that goods, which it formerly required six or seven days to forward from Coire to Chiavenna, are now transported over the same distance in two or three, while, by travelling post, that journey, once so formidable, is now performed daily in ten or twelve hours Merchandize forwarded from Milan, under these circumstances, reaches Zurich in eight days, a fact, which furnishes incontestable evidence of the vast improvement which the last ten years have effected in commercial expedition It is calculated that the annual transit of merchandize across the Splügen amounts to 25,000 quintals, and that, on an average, eight or nine waggons cross the summit daily During one day in the month of August, upwards of two hundred waggons, laden chiefly with cotton for Switzerland, and timber for Italy, have been known to cross the summit

The highest part of the route, or *col*, presents the form of a valley, through which the Hanslebach precipitates its thundering tide Gradually descending from this point, and passing the Grison frontier, we reach the Casa Cantoniera inn, or *hospice*, of the Splügen, where, as on the Bernardino, shelter and refreshments may be had when required * It serves also as an *entrepôt* for merchandize, and a residence for the inspector of tolls, and a body of custom house officers

* And where upon occasion—as it has been previously stated by a late tourist for the benefit of such of our fair countrywomen who *travai*—ladies have been happily confined—For the disastrous effects of the recent storm in this route the reader is referred to the succeeding pages

During the sudden *tourmentes*,* or snow-storms, to which this dreary spot is peculiarly subject, the bell of the inn is incessantly tolled for the direction of bewildered travellers; while the route, bordered by tall poles, or *staze*, which overtop the deepest snow, conducts the half-frozen pilgrim, when all other indications would have failed, to the house of refuge.

Owing to the marshy nature of the soil, it is probable that in remote times the whole valley, like many others, formed a lake till, discharged by some sudden disruption of the natural barrier, its bed gradually assumed the present marshy consistence. During excavations in several parts of this platform, and at an elevation of 5,800 feet, or upwards, roots of trees have been found—the last relics of primeval forests; while, in the present day, not a tree is to be seen within a league and a half of the *hospice*. In former ages, nevertheless, forests must have covered immense tracks in these Alps, where nothing but the lichen and rhododendron now flourish.

From the *hospice*, the traveller will notice in the distance numerous *chalets*, which are inhabited during the summer by Bergamese shepherds, who have large flocks at pasture there, as well as herds of cattle and horses. Here the well-known cheese, manufactured from a mixture of ewe and cow milk, is prepared during the fine season, and, having a flavour far from disagreeable, finds a ready sale. The pastoral economy observed by these shepherds differs, however, most materially, from that on the Swiss side of the mountain. Their manner of life descends from father to son, and for several ages the same people have been in the habit of resorting annually to the Grison Alps, and by renting the pasture for their numerous flocks, contribute no little to the revenue of the canton.

Of the dangers so frequently incurred in the passage of the Splügen, and of which every month furnishes some fresh detail, we offer a few general remarks. On the Splügen, the snow-falls commence in the end of October, or early part of November; instances, nevertheless, have occurred when scarcely a foot of snow has fallen up to Christmas, while at others, during the same period, it has attained a depth of from six to ten feet. The depth of snow, however, varies exceedingly according to the force and direction of the wind, by which, in certain places, it is diminished to thin layers, and in others,—the gorges and hollows, for example,—it is accumulated to an immense depth, and to this cause are attributable the dangers which infest certain portions of the route, while others are comparatively safe. In ordinary seasons, the snow disappears about the end of May; but in 1826, and so late as the end of June, the route had to be cleared

* See our account of St. Gothard.

through a layer of snow eight and ten feet deep. In those places where the mountain is broken into deep valleys, or ravines, the snow never melts during even the hottest summer. So long as the old route was frequented, it often happened that the passage over the summit was shut for ten and twelve days at a time, but at present, owing to the excellent arrangements on the part of the two governments, Swiss and Austrian, that inconvenience is seldom experienced for more than three or four days, even in the worst seasons. The letter-carriers, even during the period when the passage is blocked up, and pronounced to be impracticable, continue the exercise of their calling between the village of Splügen and Chiavenna, though always, it must be confessed, at the imminent risk of their lives. The regulations instituted by government for maintaining the communication open, are the same here as on the Bernarino. At the village of Splügen there are two distinct classes of workmen: the first, or *furlente*, are charged with the duty of opening the way, and the inspector, or *furlenteur*, with a salary of 500 florins a year, is bound to go *every day* as far as the frontier, with one or two oxen, in order to open the track. When there is a fresh fall of snow, he is obliged to take from six to twelve oxen or horses, with the same number of labourers, named *ruther*, who receive a florin a day, in order to force the passage, by tramping the snow into a hardened consistency. The second class, whose duty is to *keep* the road open, consists of ten *weger*, whose chief, or *hauptweger*, has the superintendence and inspection of the works, and receives an annual salary of 200 florins. He is charged to keep the way fit for carriages or sledges, from the village of Splügen, over the summit as far as the frontier. The winter expenses attending this part of the management, amount to 12 or 1400 florins. The same process is adopted, by similarly organized bodies of workmen, on the Italian side, and it is truly surprising how few lives are actually lost in this perilous occupation. The knowledge, derived from daily experience, and the salutary measures enforced by government, and recommended by modern inventions, are such, that they know every step of the route, and when actually overtaken by any of the various forms in which dangers present themselves, their long familiarity with such phenomena, and that precaution, fortitude, and presence of mind, for which they are so remarkable, seldom forsake them in the hour of need. It is but too true, however, that at times, all these moral and physical resources have proved unavailing, and that accidents have frequently occurred, and ever must occur, in a route which the genius and ambition of man have wrested from the desolation of nature, and which her ever working hand is seeking to retrieve. Here, in a few hours, every trace of human labour becomes obliterated, the fall of snow,

the rush of the avalanche or torrent, seem to resist the bold invasion of their territory, and demand its restitution; while it is only by unwearied vigilance, and unceasing labour, that art can maintain her uncertain empire, and defend herself against the desolating effects of so many awful and insidious causes. Yet, if in any situation more than another, it may be permitted for man to exult in the power of man, and to view with enthusiastic mind the proofs of his successful and daring enterprise, it is certainly in situations like the Splügen.

The gorge of the Cardinell,* so happily avoided in the construction of the new route, and along whose appalling brink the old road opened a most precarious path, is one of the most frightful passes that human imagination can conceive. Here, enormous avalanches, piled in subtle suspense over the head of the traveller, a breath—the slightest agitation of the atmosphere—may discharge from their slippery perch, with a roar that shakes the mountain to its foundation. The disasters recorded of this fearful gorge, as well as the many of which no record was ever heard—the solitary death and oblivion of travellers who have there perished, unknown and unlamented—are peculiarly affecting. It was here that the army under Macdonald, as already stated, lost so many of its infantry and horse.

"Counting their triumphs—flushed with fierce desire
Of war's wild game—his serried legions passed:
Soldier, and steed, and train of engines dire,
And banners flaunting in the freezing blast!
Then rushed the whirlwind—folding in its ire
The famished victim:—then the lightnings cast
Their shafts around, and thundering lawns swept
The stragglers to their sepulchres of snow,
Where steed and rider in their harness slept—
And demons shrieked—*Woe to the invader, woe!*"—MS.

A singular incident is mentioned as having occurred at this time:—A French drummer having been precipitated, like many of his comrades, into this frightful gulf, appeared to have suffered so little injury that, having emerged from the snow, he was heard beating his drum for several hours afterwards. But for the poor fellow there was no possibility of human help; and that drum, by which he

* Not far from the entrance to this tremendous pass are to be seen the remains of an ancient tower, and, at a few paces farther, some massy ruins. It is from this *doujon* (Spelunca) that the modern *Splügen* is supposed to be derived. The narrow path, as observed in the engraving of the subject, was cut along the side of perpendicular walls of rock, overhanging a frightful abyss; and it will be easily conceived how terrible must have been the march of the French army along a terrace where, independently of natural causes, the slightest irregularity in the mass of troops was sufficient to unbalance a whole column.



had so often mustered his comrades in the field, or encouraged them in danger, could not now summon one solitary arm to his rescue

It is calculated on an average that, in the different routes which traverse the Grison Alps alone, three conductors, with from seven to ten horses and mules, perish annually. Accidents were frequent some years ago, on that part of the route now under notice, which connects the *hospice* with Campodolcino, and where whole caravans with horses have been swept away by avalanches. Various instances, too, have occurred, where individuals have been snatched from destruction in a manner which appears little short of miraculous interposition. Thirty years ago, or upwards, a conductor, named Gredig, was precipitated into the gulf of the Cardinell, where, incredible as it may appear to those who have seen it, he continued all night, till, having cleared himself a passage through the upper layer of snow, ten feet thick, he was happily observed, and restored to the world. Another individual, named Bandi, though much frozen, was rescued from the same gorge in a similar way. A third, the courier from Lindau to Milan, named Jakob Spöhler, happening to dismount for an instant, beheld his horse with the mail precipitated, by a sudden avalanche, into the abyss. Andreas Schwartz, of Splügen, was carried off in like manner, but his comrade had the happiness to rescue him, though apparently dead, and restore him to life. In 1807, Martin Meuli, of Neufannen, along with his comrade, Christian Menn, and several horses, having entered the gorge of the Cardinell late at night, in a moment after, both Menn and the horse he rode were precipitated head long by an avalanche, while his companion Meuli, feeling that he had escaped without severe bodily harm, though surrounded on all sides by the wreck of the avalanche, spent the night under a projecting ledge of rock, and there, wrapt up in some folds of cloth, which he carried on his horse, succeeded in effecting his miraculous escape.

From the first opening of this pass, in the fourteenth century, down to the period of its reconstruction in 1822, the defile, as already stated, was only practicable for pedestrians and beasts of burden. Of the latter it is calculated that three hundred crossed the Splügen *weekly* between Coire and Chiavenna without changing their load, while an additional number of from twenty to thirty horses were daily met at the Splügen by the same number from Campodolcino, where, having severally exchanged freightage, they retraced their steps. Their conductors were called *strakfuhrleute*, three fourths of whom were Grisons, and the remainder from the valley of S. Giacomo. The journey from Coire to the village of Splügen was generally performed in two days, and thence to Chiavenna, under favourable circumstances, in two more, so as to divide the distance into four stages,

of five leagues each. At each of these stations the conductors had their regular assistants, who, for a slight remuneration, assisted them in loading and unloading. During the five months of winter, sledges were frequently substituted for the summer mode of transport, although the latter was by no means laid aside; and it was only in the depth of winter, when the snows had filled up the inequalities, and the road was every where practicable, that the sledge came into general use. The *strakfuhrleute*, however, seldom or never changed their mode of transport with change of season, because, however practicable for sledges the northern portion of the route might be found, still the southern, from the earlier melting of the snow, might be expected to present insurmountable obstacles to the employment of these vehicles.

Owing to the greater facilities which the frozen state of the snow during that period afforded, the winter presented the greatest show of traffic; for by means of sledges the expedition of wine, brandy, and other bulky commodities, was more readily effected. The price usually paid for horses trained to this service was about fifteen pounds sterling, and the average term for efficient labour, about eight years. It is difficult to ascertain how much profit, all necessary expenses deducted, could be actually realized upon each horse in this perilous traffic. Such of the conductors as speculated a little in the wine and brandy trade, and observed strict economy, have occasionally realized a moderate independence; but of these a few only have made from two to five thousand louis d'or: while those again who did not speculate in the same way were generally ruined. It may be easily supposed that an occupation, which obliged these people to live continually on the great thoroughfares of the Alps, was not only painful and exhausting to themselves personally, but also that it exposed them every hour to the imminent hazard of life or limb. Many of them had their hands and feet frozen, or, by fractures and mutilations, were rendered utterly helpless for the rest of their days. Some, by sudden inflammatory attacks, were hurried to the tomb; some fell victims to their intemperate indulgence in stimulating liquors; while others were smothered in *tourmentes*, buried alive under the fall of avalanches, or—precipitated to depths beyond the hope of rescue, perished by a lingering death. It may be affirmed, without extravagance, that the hardships encountered by our gallant countrymen in their search of a north-west passage, were scarcely greater than those repeatedly encountered in the passage of the Alps.

In spite of these dangers, however, and notwithstanding the little profit that accrued to the followers of this life of enterprise, the business of conductor was looked upon by many with envy, and its attainment considered as an object of no ordinary ambition. It is one of those adventurous, or exciting states of existence,

which the enthusiasm or the thoughtlessness of youth are apt to invest with the wild extravagance of romance, and to which, it must be confessed, the life of the conductors themselves gives no small countenance and support. The subtle air of the Alps is of itself a stimulant, and accompanied by the romantic scenes on the route, joyous cheer at the inns,—where, in order to support their excessive fatigue, and fortify both mind and body against the many ills this “life is heir to,” they have a liberal supply of wine, with intervals of rest and refreshment—they are enabled to look with pity, or at least without envy, on the plodding population from which they have emerged. It may be remarked, however, that the hired portion of this craft seldom reach old age. Intemperance and the vicissitudes of climate soon impair the most robust constitution, and it is only among the proprietors that we meet with individuals who have attained an advanced age.

Respecting the annual migration of northern birds across the Splügen, some interesting particulars have been communicated by M. de Balenstein, of Coire, to Dr. Ebel, whose admirable work on this pass is condensed in Meyer's “*Voyage dans les Grisons*.” These migrations of various birds, peculiar to northern latitudes, commence about the month of August, and continue till November. Their flight takes place during the night, early in the morning, or evening, and when the sky is unclouded, they are seen at a great height above all the peaks and summits of the Alps, yet without pursuing any direct course. But should the weather prove bad during the passage of one of these species, the sky cloudy, or a succession of rain supervene, they lower their flight, cross the valleys, and, following the natural winding of the Alps, pursue their flight in the direction of the great routes. At Chiavenna, where the two valleys of the Splügen and Septimer terminate, all the birds which approach the south by these passes form a general rendezvous, and it is curious to remark, that a much greater number of them arrive by the ancient pass of the Septimer, than by that of the Splügen. No sooner, however, have the feathered strangers attempted to refresh themselves by rest, after their long journey, and tasted of that food to which natural instinct had directed them, than a thousand snares are busily employed for their destruction, so that in the neighbourhood of Chiavenna alone, the number thus taken in the course of a season is calculated at one hundred thousand. Here, nevertheless, their persecution only commences, for the instant they have passed the lake of Como, and entered the defiles of the Valtellina, they fall into the hands of innumerable fowlers, to many of whom they become a source of considerable profit. The consequence of this, as observed by the amiable naturalist above quoted, is a strikingly apparent diminution among these birds in the Alps. In the country of the Grisons, says Dr. Ebel, in his remarks on

this fact, these feathered travellers were always received with hospitality, and suffered to prosecute their appointed journey in security; but now, unfortunately for the credit of man, and much to the disgrace of the Italian Capuchins, who introduced them, snares have been sanctioned in various districts for the destruction of these peaceful colonies.

But we return to our route.* Having reached Isola, the precipitous descent to which is counteracted by numerous doublings of the new route—twenty and upwards, the scene undergoes a striking change to green pastures, fields of rye and barley, hemp, lint, and potatoes; gardens, gaudy with sunflowers and cherry-trees; while the maple and ash indicate the returning power of the soil, and the approach to a new climate. On escaping from the horrid defiles of the Splügen, where not a blade of vegetation refreshes the eye; where glaciers overhang the

* We here interrupt the course of our narrative, to introduce a brief detail of the frightful devastations committed on this route within the last two months, and to which a distinguished author*—prosecuting at the time his philosophical researches in the Rhoetan Alps—was an eye-witness. The disasters severally experienced by the cantons of Uri, Valais, and Tessin, will be noticed in their proper place, and in the mean time we advert, with exceeding regret, to the catastrophes which a hurricane of unprecedented violence has inflicted along our present line of route, and such as in many instances neither time nor expenditure can efface. Early in the morning of the 17th of August last, a storm, coming from the west, speedily extended itself over the whole country of the Grisons, and continued its ravages, without interruption, till the following day. Innumerable cataracts, suddenly discharged from the mountains, carried away everything that opposed their course. An immense quantity of trees, fifty houses, and upwards of thirty bridges, were either destroyed or entirely swept off by the torrents. The magnificent route which we lately described between Coire and Splügen, and chiefly in the Schamsenthal, has been almost entirely obliterated—the vast embankments broken down—and that beautiful valley transformed into a lake, where the waters, swollen to a height far exceeding the disastrous foundations of 1817, carried off several inhabitants, and much cattle. In this district alone the damage is stated at upwards of one million of florins. The valleys of Grub, Medels, Tavetsch, and Vals, have suffered extremely. In the Oberland the bridges were all, or in great part destroyed. In the village of Splügen five men perished; a handsome building, lately erected, a dozen other houses, the great stone bridge over the Seranda, were all swept down by the torrent, and it was only with the greatest difficulty and hazard of life that the bridge over the Rhine (see the Plate) was saved. Between Splügen and Naufanen the dykes gave way, and several houses and sheds of cattle were borne down by the torrent. In one of these houses, only an hour previously, the family were quietly seated at their evening meal.

But the disasters are much too numerous to be recorded here. In the village of Isola alone, thirty houses and stabling were entirely destroyed; and of the pleasing features hitherto presented by the valley of S. Giacomo, not a vestige is left—every trace of cultivation or crop vanished in a single night. All the houses between Porta Rezia, Lirene, and Gallivaggia have disappeared, and in one of them a mother and three children fell a sacrifice to this awful visitation. The route between S. Giacomo and Isola has been so completely effaced, that it appears impossible to re-establish the communication without entirely quitting the ancient track. Various other details have reached us, but which, although exceedingly interesting, we must reserve for a future occasion.

* DR. JAMES JOHNSON, by whom we are favoured with original notes on some most interesting phenomena observed during his autumnal excursion in the Alps, and which will be found in a future part of this work. See also his "*Philosophy of Travelling*," 4th edit.

road, and gulfs yawn at our feet, this little valley presents the appearance of an island in the midst of a tempestuous ocean, where travellers, like ships that have happily weathered the passage, are glad to anchor for a little in smooth water.

The height of this valley above the sea, is stated at 3,867 feet: it forms the upper part of the vale of S. Giacomo, betwixt which and that of Misocco, formerly described, the powers of vegetation, and the variety of the productions, form a curious contrast. In the Val Misocco, for example, large forest trees thrive at an elevation of 6,500 feet; while in this of S. Giacomo, which opens from north to south, forest-trees disappear at the height of 4,420 feet. In the former, again, wheat is cultivated at a height of 4,903 feet, and the vine at 3,026 feet; while, in the latter, these productions are limited, respectively, to the heights of 3,867 feet and 1,149 feet. The cause of this great difference, in point of fertility, is explained by the simple fact, that the Val Misocco, which runs east and west, is thereby secured from the effects of the *tramontana*, or north-wind; a scourge to which the less-favoured S. Giacomo is exposed.*

Between Isola and Campodolcino, a distance of one league, the plain gradually closes; the rocky boundaries contract, and the Lira, roaring across the gorge of *Muta Mala*, rushes precipitously into the second plain of Campodolcino. This valley is as level as a lake; and, from careful examination, it would appear extremely probable that the several platforms which succeed each other in this route, have all originally been basins, placed at different stages of elevation; till the first of these, having forced its banks, the precipitous rush of its waters gave such impetus to the others, as finally to convert their beds into valleys. And what other origin have most of the Swiss and Alpine valleys? By some powerful natural cause, the original lake finds vent—its waters are drained off—vegetation comes with time; till, on the introduction of man, the bed of the ancient lake becomes a fertile and habitable valley. It often happened, while the old route was frequented, that horses and mules were lost in this descent. At the opening of this picturesque gorge, the new road enters the fourth gallery,

* Among the inhabitants of S. Giacomo, almost the only names which have attained public notoriety are those of the Stuppa family, of whom Pietro rose to the rank of *generalissimo* of the Swiss and Grison troops in the French service, and died at an advanced age in 1701. His brother, Baptista, some time pastor of a Protestant chapel in London, was well known to Cromwell, by whom he was employed in various political intrigues on the continent, till becoming suspected by the Protector, he was obliged to quit England and retire to Paris. But there, like a sensible courtier, having presented the queen with a monkey, he soon obtained the royal favour, and a captaincy in his brother's regiment. Thus, like our own Whittington by his cat, Stuppa, by his monkey, rose into great consideration. Having obtained the command of a regiment, he died of wounds received at the battle of Stanlirk. Others of the same family rose to distinction in the same manner.

called the Piannazzo, 367 feet long, by 12 in breadth, lighted by ten lateral openings, and formed for the protection of the traveller against the avalanches, which, in former times, were so terrific at this point. About a furlong from this, the cascade of Piannazzo presents a magnificent spectacle, while nearly opposite, another from the Val Sartano greatly heightens the grandeur of the scene. The first of these is variously estimated at from 700 to 900 feet, according to Dr. Ebel; stated at "nearly 300 feet" by Mr. Brockedon, and at 700 by Mr. Walter—*sub judice lis est*.

At the lower extremity of this valley, we pass by a series of *tourniquets* over the rugged precipice of the Stozzo, and enter a third valley, where the handsome village church of Vho, surrounded by maple trees, offers a very pleasing point of view. Here the mountains again contract, and for several leagues the journey is performed across a desert, strewn with shattered blocks of granite;* many of which, fifty feet in height, are grouped up in wild confusion on one another—"the fragments of a former world." During two leagues of this chaotic pass, called Cima di Ganda, the Lira forms a continued cataract. About a league from Campodolcino, another fine church, that of Santa Maria Gallivaggia, arrests the attention, and with the miserable cabins from which it rises, looks like a haughty despot enriched by the plunder of his starving retainers.

At this point the chestnut-trees begin to vegetate. Passing the Val d'Aver, the Val Serta, S. Giacomo, and Uggiate, with the lateral valley of Gonasca on the left, the road very soon quits the banks of the Lira, and taking an eastern direction towards Bett, opens with an extensive view over the rich and delicious valley of Piuro, or Plurs, whose fearful story, though probably familiar to most of our readers, we shall here briefly relate.

* From the village of Splügen, upwards, we observe layers of calcareous rock, of a bluish grey tint and fine grain, the blocks of which lie scattered in various directions. After these comes the micaceous schist, intermixed with layers of white marble, dolomite, and alabaster, till we arrive at the summit. Micaceous schist, or mica-slate, is frequently incumbent on gneiss, or granite, covered by common slate, and is essentially composed of mica and quartz intimately combined. Dolomite (so called in honour of the celebrated Dolomieu) is composed of magnesia and calcareous earth—forty-eight of the former to fifty-two of the latter: that which is observed here, and on the S. Gothard, closely resembles white primary limestone. On the left, in the pasture of Räzuns, there is a quarry of white marble, alluded to in our former notice of the village, and seen from the road, which a few years since was worked by Italians at a moderate rental. After passing the summit, large blocks of a bright grey porphyry are scattered over the surface, but particularly along the base of the high rocks to the eastward. This remarkable rock continues across the whole valley where the *hospice* is situated, and as far as the second *refuge*, where the micaceous schist again appears. Beautiful crystals of brown transparent quartz are found in these rocks. The micaceous schist disappears once more near the first bridge below Isola, and is succeeded by gneiss, which continues as far as Campodolcino, and then gives place to granite, which continues as far as Chiavenna—a distance of three leagues. The layers, in general, run from south-west to north-east, with an inclination to the south-east.

PLURS was built upon the ruins of Belfort—a village which had been swallowed up in one of those sudden *éboulements*, which, from time to time, have caused such melancholy havoc in the Alpine valleys—and thus took the appropriate name of Plurs, or the Village of Sorrow. Like the inhabitants of a volcanic soil—where the calamity once past is half forgotten, and where gardens are cultivated upon the very graves of their predecessors, the survivors of Belfort—with a confidence which no circumstance could warrant, and in defiance of the dreadful visitation which had just transformed their joy into mourning—erected habitations, planted vineyards, founded churches, and embellished with palaces the very scene of their previous calamity—concealing, as it were, the remembrance of sorrow under the mask of hilarity. Owing to the natural beauty of the scenery, the salubrity of the air, the fertility which characterized this valley, and the mildness of its government, Plurs had become a place of favourite resort, and, during the hot season of August and September, was crowded with visitors from the neighbouring provinces—many of whom were persons of the highest rank in the country, and possessed villas and sumptuous palaces in the places. One of these, the *Hôtel des Franken*, is stated to have cost several millions of francs, “and,” says a writer of that time, “was only one of many others on a similar scale, which might have vied with some of the finest palaces in Italy.” Here the nobles of the Milanese spent their *Villeggiatura*—hither the dissipated resorted for the indulgence of pleasure—the busy for relaxation—and the sick for the recovery of health. In short, with the exception of the sea breeze, Plurs was a modern Baie, where the allurements of pleasure, and the amenities of scene and climate, presented at once the most pleasing and the most pernicious attractions.

In addition to the profits arising from the annual migration of strangers to Plurs and its neighbouring village, *Schilano* the inhabitants carried on a spirited trade in silk, of which it is said twenty thousand pounds were manufactured yearly. Early in September, 1618, when the town had reached its highest prosperity, and every thing seemed to promise a long continuance, an unseen hand was at work, and the silent operation of natural causes matured that fearful catastrophe, in which the town of Plurs, like its predecessor, was destined to perish. During the last week of August, and up to the 3d of September, there had been heavy, continued rains, but on the morning of the 4th the sky cleared up, the sun shone brightly forth, and not setting, left that promise of a bright rise, which the inhabitants of Plurs were never more to witness. During the afternoon, the *Conto Alp*, which commands the valley, was observed to detach numerous fragments of rock, and torrents of gravel, from its flank—particularly

from that part which, for ten years previously, had exhibited various deep chasms in its surface. These phenomena appearing to increase, and the gravel-avalanches, as they may be called, having greatly damaged or destroyed several vineyards in their course, the shepherds on the mountains became alarmed, and, hastening down to Plurs, brought intelligence of what they had witnessed; adding, that fresh crevices had appeared—that the mountain seemed splitting asunder, and—that at the time was little understood—that the cattle fled bellowing from their accustomed pasture, as if pursued by some invisible object of terror—while swarms of bees in the neighbourhood had deserted their hives, and afterwards dropped dead from the air. All these, however, though of easy explanation, were either received with incredulity, or treated as exaggerations, and the people of Plurs remained incredulous to the warning voice.

It is related also—though on authority very different from the preceding—that during several days, and more particularly on the last, a holy man continued publishing in the market-place—proclaiming, from house to house, that the day of their destruction was at hand—and exhorting the inhabitants to flee for their lives; but that, with the single exception of his own daughter, none believed the prophet, and that even she, after having passed the gate, and remembering that she had left some trinkets unsecured, returned to the house, and perished with the rest.

About midnight, or shortly after, the surrounding country experienced a violent shock, accompanied with a deep hollow roar like that of distant thunder, which greatly appalled the inhabitants—but without apprising them of its cause and consequences—and then subsided into a death-like silence. At daybreak they remarked that the sky was strangely obscured by clouds of dust and vapour; while the bed of the river Maira was found dry. On nearer approach, both Plurs and Schilano had disappeared; and, with the exception of one solitary house—a villa belonging to the Vertemati family—had left not a vestige behind! In one brief hour

Their city was a sepulchre—their hearth
A charnel house!

For a time this awful spectacle paralyzed every heart; for there was probably not one spectator or individual in the whole valley, who had not to deplore, among the victims to this sudden calamity, some relation, kinsman, or friend. At length, old and young—all who possessed strength or resolution, rushed to the place, and, under the guidance of the governor of Chiavenna—the celebrated Sprecher de Bernegg, made every human effort to rescue some of the unhappy

sufferers. But neither perseverance, strength, nor ingenuity, could recover one victim—all perished, and of the entire population of Plurs, amounting to *two thousand five hundred*, only *three*, who were at that time from home, survived!

In like manner of the inhabitants of Schulano, seventy five families perished. Plurs was overwhelmed by a mass of rocks and earth to a depth of sixty feet—through which not even the tower of the church appeared—and lay like one vast sepulchre, over which a grove of chestnuts has now thrown its deep luxuriant shade.

Various efforts were then made, by experienced miners, to excavate a passage to the cathedral, which was known to contain several gold and silver utensils, as well as jewels, and certain relics much more precious than these, but none have succeeded, and the priest still sleeps in that sanctuary where his bones and his altars are equally well secured from the hand of sacrilege.

———From the whelming Alp
That crushed the r altars—none like spectres risen
Have solved the mystery of this fearful prison!

A bell, now at Prosto, and two lustres, in the possession of Signor Buzzi, of Chiavenna, are the only relics, we were told, of the wealth and luxury of Plurs.

The environs of Chiavenna abound in subjects of natural history, and, while offering to the scientific student a wide field for the exercise of his intellectual faculties, they delight the eye with a luxuriant landscape, and most productive soil. The lower flanks of the mountains are shaded with chestnut forests, and embellished with the almond, fig, mulberry, and vine—all of which bear evidence to the salubrity of the climate. But, in midst of the richest harvest, and the brightest vegetation, we every where meet with fearful evidence of those former convulsions which, from time to time, have transformed the smiling landscape into a leafless desert.

The vast masses of granite which have struck the vale of S. Giacomo with such irretrievable barrenness, point distinctly to that period when mountains were rent, and villages and hamlets, with their happy and unsuspecting population, suddenly struck down, and, like Plurs, overwhelmed in the height of their prosperity. These awful visitations are but too likely to recur—the same causes are in full operation, and must inevitably lead to similar consequences. Here, and in various other districts of the Alps, a very superficial investigation is sufficient to alarm the most sceptical, and predict a calamity, which no precautions can avert, and of which the valley of Santa Maria di Gallivaggia offers a fearful illustration. Chiavenna itself has hitherto escaped, as if by miracle, having on one occasion been nearly buried by a torrent of earth.

The town of Chiavenna, as its etymon imports, is one of the principal keys to Italy; and, from the circumstance of its uniting the three passes of the Splügen, the Septimer, and the Maloggia, has, from time immemorial, enjoyed great political consideration. The view from the castle hill is unique in its kind; and here is an excavation of amazing labour, attributed to one of the Viscotti family, about 1363. It is 150 feet deep, 30 broad, and 400 in length. The convulsions to which the whole vicinity has been subject, have left numerous grottoes, or *ventaroli*, among the rocks, of which the inhabitants have taken advantage by keeping their wine in the cool equable temperature of these natural cellars. The west side is nearly covered with summer-houses, which, shaded by luxuriant fig-trees, serve as entrances to these caverns, the air of which, in summer, is often of so low a temperature as 5° 7' Reaumur, while on the outside, it is as high as 21°. The ruins of the Cotto are particularly perforated by these chambers, which form subterraneous labyrinths of great variety and extent.

Between Chiavenna and Prosto, the mountains are covered with vast masses of loosened rocks and rubbish, by a sudden discharge from which, in 1675, the latter village was hurried up to the chimneys; while again, in 1760, Abondio was nearly destroyed by a similar disaster. Of these, and some others of a more recent occurrence, we shall have occasion to speak more at large, as we proceed.*

Among the public buildings of Chiavenna, the church of S. Lorenzo, with its noble columns of granite, and rich embellishments in marble, preserves its hereditary distinction. The love of the Italians for the arts is here conspicuous in the very charnel house, where the frail relics of humanity—skulls and cross-bones of past generations, “unhearsed, and torn from their cerements”—are made at once to attract the curious and repel the superstitious; and, whatever may have been their merits during life, can it be consolatory to the manes of the dead, or flattering to the ambition of surviving friends, that their skulls should contribute—if not to the prosperity of the state—at least to the mosaics of S. Lorenzo?

The hospital here is richly endowed, and the public institutions conducted in a manner highly creditable to the people, and worthy of that noble Confederation of which, till 1797, Chiavenna formed a part. The history of this ancient key to Lombardy abounds in incidents; and, to such of our readers as may not have had access to works on this subject, we would recommend—what

* See, in a future page, an original account of the destruction of Galdau, Ruffiberg, Borchs, Marciana, Tanglen, Mont Grenier, &c. &c.



our limits will not permit us to quote—the perusal of native works on the history and topography of the Grisons.*

The Flora of this portion of the Alps comprises a great variety of rich and beautiful productions—all indicative of the wonderful change in climate which a few leagues have occasioned by transporting us from the regions of eternal winter to those of continual spring, where the common plants are the *jasminum officinale*, the *centaurea splendens*, with purple flowers, the *cistus nigricans*, and *salvifolius*, the *cyperus longus*, and *Celtis australis*: while the gardens exhibit a profusion of orange and pomegranate trees in full vigour, and the whole scene is a continued display of beauty and fertility.

The manufacture of cookery utensils from the *laveze*, or *lapis ollaris*, of Chiavenna—and the *lapis comensis*, of former times—still continues in some activity. The peculiar advantage of this material is, that, in cooking, the process is much more quickly performed, and the taste and flavour of animal food greatly superior to that prepared in vessels of iron or copper. In 1700, the trade in this article alone produced an annual revenue of 250,000 florins, but of late years it has greatly decreased.

THE ST. GOTHARD. CANTON OF URI.

Qui pressum quondam lussit, Griblere I popellum
 Pileus Helvetici foderis ansa fuit.
 Brutus erat nobis Uro GULIELMUS in arvo
 Assertor patriæ, vindexque, ultorque tyrannum.

BEFORE taking final leave of the Hesperian frontier, we shall make a short *détour* by the lakes of Chiavenna and Como, recross the Monte Cenero, traverse the Livinea-thal upwards to Airolo, thence climb the St. Gothard, and pause among those scenes over which the “men of Uri” and their deeds have thrown unfading lustre.

From Chiavenna to Riva, in the Lake of Como, a distance of two leagues, we

* Die Drey Bunde in Hohen Rhatten—Historia Reformationis Ecclesie Rhæticæ. Schokke's Historische Denkwürdigkeiten—and, for an excellent abridgment, Dr J. G. Ebel's Account, in Meyer's Voy. Pittor. dans le Cant. des Grisons. Zurich, 1827.

traverse a plain highly picturesque and fertile; but, during the summer, infected by pestilential fevers, which often render it fatal to such strangers as sleep under the infected atmosphere.

"Early on the 26th of last August," says Dr. JOHNSON, in some original notes, to which we are indebted for the following graphic sketch of an Alpine storm—"we started from Chiavenna, and drove down to Riva, through a beautiful but pestilent valley, where to have slept, even for a night, would have brought our lives into jeopardy, for here the inhabitants were fast sinking under the effects of *malaria*. Having embarked on board the *Lario* steamer, we swept round Como, under circumstances of sky and sunshine which enhanced every feature of its beautiful scenery. Here the prelude of that dreadful hurricane—destined to transform so many Alpine valleys into scenes of desolation, manifested itself in vivid and almost continuous sheets of lightning; while an oppressive stillness pervaded the surcharged atmosphere, and induced that peculiar languor of mind and body which few can conquer, and none who have once experienced its effects, can ever forget. At length the wind rose—rapid and heavy showers succeeded—and lightning and thunder peals, in rapid alternation, exhibited the true characters of a *traasalpine* storm. This was at eleven o'clock; and, while waiting for the return of the boat which had just conveyed the king of Bavaria across, the surface of the lake was chafed into foam by a tremendous gust of wind, which ploughed the water into white furrows, and drove us back to the shelter of some arches, which, fortunately for us, were at hand. I had witnessed a Chinese *tiffoon*, an eastern tornado, and a western hurricane; but the scene which for seven hours passed under our eyes, might claim kindred with the wildest of these. The gale was from the west; and, during its prevalence, destroyed almost every pass of the Alps, from the maritime range to the Tyrol.

"The order of the phenomena were these:—first, the terrific flash of lightning, which blinded us for an instant by the intensity of its glare; then succeeded the thunder-crash—like the rending of mountains, suspending for a time all sense of hearing, and rendered still more dreadful by the profound stillness that ensued. Then again, as the ear recovered, and the paralyzing shock passed off, the storm was heard to perform the same regular and fearful round. Looking towards the Alps, we saw dense and jet-black masses of clouds rolling along their flanks, and discharging their electric batteries as if armies of contending spirits had there driven their chariots to battle. Many of the trees were bent prostrate, others torn up by the roots, while the lake before us was churned by the winds into a yeasty whirlpool."

It was here that Dr Johnson observed an atmospheric phenomenon, which he had not previously witnessed in either hemisphere—"At the same instant a mass of clouds rushed forward with great velocity to a certain point, around which, like a pivot, they continued to move in rapid gyration, like the circumvolutions of a whirlwind, and then suddenly disappeared in clouds of intense darkness, from the centre of which, split open, as if by explosion, a speck of bright sky emitted a profusion of rays from every point of its circumference. Then again succeeded the dazzling light—the terrific thunder—and a deluge of rain, which set every torrent in motion, and transformed the simple stream to a cataract. This terrific scene lasted from eleven in the morning till five in the afternoon, when the clouds suddenly vanished, the sun shone forth, the agitation of the lake gradually softened down, the Alps shot their glittering summits into the sky, but from every height and lull, torrents, like threads of foam in the distance, leaped and roared into the Lugano. As we advanced, the valley of Bellinzona presented the appearance of a half drained lake, which, but the day before, had offered a picture of beauty and fertility. Much of it was still under water, and the original boundary of the Lago Maggiore greatly extended. It seemed, indeed, as if the lake had suddenly risen some hundred feet above its ordinary level, rolled its waves right up to the walls of Bellinzona, and then as suddenly retired within its natural limits. The two rivers, the Ticino and Moesa, which here unite from the St Gothard and Bernardino, had hurst their banks in almost every stage of their descent—destroyed several lives, and swept off property to an immense amount. Thus devastating force was greatly augmented by quantities of uprooted trees and masses of felled timber. These were carried for miles over the flooded soil, and lodged in situations already prepared for crops, or strewn in wild confusion along the half obliterated boundaries of the river. The bridges were all hurst up—the roads impassable—villages swept away—men and cattle drowned in the sudden inundations—fields covered several feet deep with mud, sand, and stones—the whole Val Leventine, in short, with all its lateral vales, reduced, in one night, from a scene of fertility to that of a marshy desert.

"It is probable, that on this fatal day a thousand lives, or more, were sacrificed in the various districts of the Alps! as the same disasters which we have here described happened to every pass and valley of the Alps, from the Mediterranean to the Inn. The passes of the St Gothard, the Simplon, and Bernardino, were so entirely cut up, that, after some perilous attempts, it was only by Mont Cenis that Dr Johnson effected his retreat and even there, three bridges had been

borne down by the torrents, and in several parts not a vestige of that noble route was left.

*The sheeted leven—hurricane and hail—
Had done their work, and scattered in their ire
The eternal rocks; and through the fertile vale
Launched the red cataract like a sea of fire.*

Having briefly described the Val-Levantine, and—as far as our limits would permit—the situation and scenery of Bellinzona, in a former part of our work, we now return from the shores of Como, and re-entering the Tessin, follow the course of the river to its source on the St. Gothard. After passing the bridge of the Moësa, the first object strikingly picturesque is Claro: thence onward, through Osogna to Polleggio, the scenery, soil, and produce, present the highest characteristics of Italian climate; and in these respects—but in these only, give the inhabitants many advantages over their brother confederates. Although the whole extent of this canton is bounded by mountains of primitive rock—some of which exceed ten thousand feet in height, and are covered with eternal snows and glaciers, still the greater portion of the twenty-five valleys, of which it is composed, enjoy an exceedingly mild climate, and produce most of the luxuries of Southern Italy and the tropics. The vine, in particular, is here a liberal source of profit, and is cultivated in great variety and luxuriance. They have no less than seventeen species of the red, and ten or twelve of the white grape. That called *lugliatica* ripens so early as July, and a single stem of it will cover a wall to the extent of twenty feet—form bowers fifty or sixty feet long, and yield sixty gallons of wine. The *potagera-bianca*, the *crugnola*, the *palestina*, are each remarkable in their kind, and amply repay the cultivation. The latter part of September is the general vintage season. In addition to almost every description of fruit tree, there are of the chestnut alone seven species—forests of which cover the sides of the mountains to an elevation of at least a league or upwards. This tree, which only attains its productive maturity at seventy years—the appointed period of human life—and lives three hundred, has often a boll six or seven feet in diameter. On account of their properties as a wholesome and nutritious food, as well as their great use as a durable timber—the planks of which will remain fresh for three hundred years—the chestnut forests constitute an important branch of native produce, and in seasons of scarcity their fruit has served as a most valuable resource for the inhabitants. Here are three species of figs, two of almonds, olives a foot in diameter, and laurels double that size—from which a

disappear, those of Helvetia succeed, and the bleak solitudes of St. Gothard dispense their immediate and chilling influence on all around.

On the 1st of June we joined a party to ascend the St. Gothard—an event in the life of every traveller in the Alps. The order of march was as follows:—A Russian nobleman and his physician, who had started at four o'clock, led the way; an elderly lady, seated in a *chaise-d-porteur*, carried by four stalwart mountaineers, and attended by her maid and valet, on foot, came next; while a third detachment, with a lady on horseback, her husband on foot, and a sumpter mule, brought up the procession. The carriage belonging to the Russian, had been forwarded at a very early hour, so as to anticipate his arrival on the opposite side. Leaving the new road, we ascended by the old stony path, where a crumbling oratory, dedicated to St. Anna, and shaded by a few thriftless pines, invites the enterprising traveller to offer up his prayers for a safe passage, and receives his thanks on return. No muleteer may pass this sacred spot with impunity; while he who halts directly under its grated window, and vents his pious ejaculations, may climb the mountain without the fear of scath—at least, so say the inhabitants. A bright morning in the Alps is always an inspiring scene; and that chosen for our present expedition was among the brightest of the season. The mountain summits glowed with ruddy effulgence; the coolness of the air inspired with its accustomed vigour both mind and body; the bright verdure of the pastures below, and the foaming, fantastic streams above us, refreshed the eye and stimulated the imagination in such a manner as to smooth all difficulties, and inspire us with that buoyancy of feeling which is usually experienced in the higher passes of the Alps. As we entered the Val-Tremola—so called from the trembling with which, at certain seasons, travellers were wont to be seized on entering this critical step in the ascent—the winter avalanches lay piled around in vast, deep, and disjointed fragments—defying the summer influence, and frozen in masses of ice. The dreary chaos which this scene presented made a strong impression on the imagination, as we figured to ourselves the frightful impetuosity with which these “thunderbolts” had descended from their perch, and the insignificance of man, with all his boasted strength and resources, when brought into collision with these awful antagonists.

Here we came in sight of the carriage, drawn by oxen, and pushed forward by the guides—but it was a work of great labour and caution; while others, stationed on the slope above, supported the vehicle by ropes, lest, by the slippery state of the route, it should make a slight mistake in rotation, and be hurled over the precipice. We, who were pedestrians, had greatly the advantage, and soon shot a-head of the lumbering wheels, which, on account of the deep surgy state of the snow, made slow and painful progress, and seemed completely to

exhaust both men and oxen. As the sun's power increased, the snow partially melted, and thereby added not a little to the inconvenience of our party, whose cattle—none of the best—floundered, retreated, and advanced through the snowy surge with a rather critical alternation. The four porters who had undertaken the bold enterprise of carrying the lady up in her sedan, had, seemingly, a hard bargain of it, and prosecuted their task up to the knees in water—every now and then depositing their fair charge on the snow, till they had recovered breath to proceed. After seven hours' perseverance, we all reached the Hospice unscathed, except the Russian, who did not arrive till late in the afternoon.

The St. Gothard is exceedingly remarkable, on account of its central position between Mont-Blanc and Monte-Rosa on the south west, by the Ortler, Wildspitz, and Fermont, on the Tyrolic frontier to the east; and as the source of the Ticino, the Reuss, the Rhone, and the Rhone. The road, as far as the Hospice, varies in breadth from ten to fifteen feet, and is paved with large blocks of granite. The bleak and savage recess in which the Hospice is situated, runs north and south, and forms a basin about a league in length, encircled by pinnacles of great height, the highest of which, the Urngerspitz, is estimated at 9,911 feet above the Mediterranean. Here also are eight or ten small lakes, formed by the glaciers whose pinnacles overhang the valley, from which the Reuss and Ticino take their rise. The latter, in its descent to the Lago Maggiore, falls nearly six thousand feet. The Hospice—erected in former times, like those on the other passes, for the security of travellers, but destroyed in the Revolution—has been replaced by an *auberge*, where every reasonable comfort is now to be procured, and which, under its many disadvantages of climate and situation, may be pronounced a very tolerable inn, and greatly improved within the last three years.

As the summer at this height lasts only a few weeks—ten or twelve at most—and the sun, during that period, makes but slight impression on the snow, the latter often accumulates in the valley, and along the route, to a depth of five or six fathoms, but a continuation of south winds, which occasionally blow even in January, is always followed by a rapid thaw, which greatly impedes the traffic in sledges, and augments the danger from avalanches. The slopes of the pass more peculiarly subject to these desolating scourges, are the Feld, north of the Hospice—the new road, carried along the face of the rocks southward, and the whole interval between the Hospice and Airolo—especially at the points called Piota, S Antonio, S Giuseppe, the whole extent of Val Tremola and Madonna al liet. The whirlwinds of snow, or *tourmentes*, are exceedingly dangerous, from the Rudunt Alp to the Hospice. Such travellers, or couriers, as necessity compels to force a passage during the dangerous period, run the most imminent

bazard of their lives. The only precaution, however, which they can employ under these circumstances, is to remove the bells from the mules' necks, or stuff them with hay, and thus pursue their route in dead silence; for the vibration even of a bell, or the sound of the human voice, are sufficient to detach those awful masses, which, with so much truth, have been described as the thunderbolts of the Alps.

The sudden condensation or rarefaction of the atmosphere here, becomes a fertile source of disaster to the traveller. The *tourmente*, or snow-burricane, to which we have just alluded, is always a most formidable, and too often a destructive, phenomenon in the Alps. In power and appearance it may be compared, not inaptly, to the sandy whirlwinds of the Desert, under which entire caravans have, at times, been buried. During the *tourmente*, the light superficial snow of the higher valleys is carried aloft in clouds, whence it descends in such profusion along the deep and narrow defiles through which the road is conducted, as completely to obliterate all traces of the path, and even to bury the poles, or *staze*, which serve as the only safeguard in these inhospitable regions. The cold, under these circumstances, becomes so intense and so increased by the momentum with which the snowy particles are driven along, that the skin becomes inflamed and blistered—the joints wrung with excruciating pains, and the eyes affected with partial or entire blindness. In this dilemma, deprived of all succour, and the means of proceeding with safety, the unhappy traveller loses all presence of mind, resigns himself to despair, and perishes where the hurricane overtook him. Such disasters, happily, are of less frequent recurrence than in former times: experience will suggest expedients under the most trying circumstances, but the stranger who is overtaken by a genuine *tourmente* in the wilder passes of the Alps, runs every risk of adding to its victims.

"When stillness wraps St. Gothard's chain,
And the warm west, serenely glowing,
With amber tints the snowy plain—
Then stay thee, traveller! stay thy going!
For hearest thou not the gathering surge—
That signal in the zephyr's blowing?
It warns thee of the coming scourge—
Then stay, rash stranger, stay thy going!

"White vapours o'er the valleys skum—
The skirts of the fierce tempest showing:
Darkness usurps the glacier's rim—
Then stay, rash stranger, stay thy going!"
He staid: our chalet's humble cheer
Received the welcome guest, and cherished:
While—in that night of storm and fear—
The scornors of our counsel perished! MS.

Out of many fatal instances that might be adduced we shall only relate one, which may serve as a warning to all strangers, whom ignorance of the locality, distrust of experience, and too much self-confidence, might needlessly expose to dangers from which there is no retreat.

In 1817, five Hanoverians, as reported by Meyer, who were returning from Italy, where they had lately proceeded in charge of horses, left the village of Bernardino at an hour when every argument was used in the hope of dissuading them from their undertaking. To every remonstrance, however, they only lent a deaf ear, or derided those fears which the better experience of those around them too well served to justify, and resolved to pass the summit at all hazards. Under these circumstances, a native of the Rheinwald, then present, determined to accompany them, in the hope that, by his experience, he might be the means of rescuing them from otherwise inevitable death. One of those hurricanes, already described, speedily confirmed the worst predictions, and assumed all those fearful characteristics, which, in these wild passes, so few have struggled with and survived. To this turmoil of the elements, the unhappy strangers—victims to their own imprudence—had nothing to oppose but physical strength, and this could only protract, without preventing, the fatal result! With that heroic devotedness which had induced him to peril his own life for the protection of theirs, the mountaineer did all that man could do to encourage and support his unhappy comrades, who now perceived the weakness of human efforts when opposed to such fearful conflicts, and, reduced to a state of complete exhaustion, dropped one after the other to perish in the snow. Fully sensible of his almost hopeless position, and the only survivor of his party, the guide had still sufficient courage and presence of mind to continue the struggle; and, after much suffering, succeeded in effecting his escape,—but with his limbs so frost-bitten, that he never after recovered the use of them.

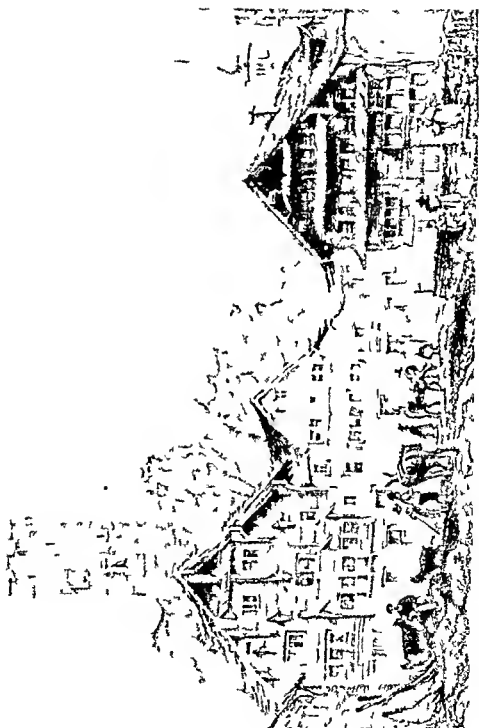
The St. Gothard has been long famous for its mineral treasures; and in no other part of the Alps are these to be met with in equal beauty and variety. It is a place of annual rendezvous for the mineralogists of Europe, some of whom spend successive summers in exploring its labyrinths, and thereby adding to the rapidly increasing interest of the science. With the assistance of an experienced native guide—who is generally well versed in the art of collecting—the student may acquire, in the space of a few weeks, among the valleys of the St. Gothard, more to illustrate his subject, and gratify his curiosity, than could be gained by attendance in the best arranged cabinets in Europe. The ordinary stations chosen for this purpose are the Hospice and Airolo on the south, and the valleys of Medels and Tavetsch on the north, as well as those of Canaria and Piora on the

east, where, from innumerable sources, upwards of fifty different varieties may be collected. Specimens, to the amount of sixty or upwards, may be purchased of the guides for about ten or twelve guineas; or the student may select, on equally moderate terms, such specimens only as he may desire to carry away with him. Some of the minerals, however, are so rare that they fetch very high prices, and become a source of profitable traffic to the finder. Among these may be enumerated the green and white *tourmalines*, which are generally valued at two or three guineas each, and not unfrequently sold for more. From Camossi, or his son, at Airolo, the mineralogist may obtain every information on this subject, and inspect his collection of minerals, peculiar to this district of the Alps, which was completed at much personal risk, and with a thorough devotion to the science. The collections of Messrs. Nager and Muller, of Andermatt, are justly celebrated.

The village of Hospital, as we quit the lofty region of winter, and descend into the valley of Ursern, presents a very striking and picturesque appearance. Its white Swiss-built cottages, German-looking church, and ancient tower, contrast well with the scenes of unmingled desolation from which we have just emerged, and afford at once relief to the mind, and a refreshing picture to the eye. As we proceed, the town of Andermatt, the miniature capital of the valley, affords indubitable evidence of Swiss economy, and Swiss customs: it is a pleasant little *bourg*, and, although upwards of 4,000 feet above the sea, enjoys a tolerable climate, and contains 600 inhabitants, or upwards.

On an acclivity of the neighbouring mountain, we observed the wreck of a small pine-forest—the only thing of the kind in the whole district. Having long served as an effectual bulwark, interposed by nature between the village and the track of the avalanches, it was long looked upon, like the sacred groves of antiquity, with a sort of religious veneration, and scrupulously preserved. Like many other bulwarks, however, which the sanctity of their office, their claims to antiquity, or other well-established titles, had rescued from profanation, this safeguard of the people was doomed to the revolutionary axe, and disappeared during the hostile invasion of 1799.

The valley of Ursern, through which we now descend, may well merit a few brief observations, by way of illustration; for there is not another, probably, within the whole range of the Alps, which can furnish an equal share of rich pastoral scenery, and pleasing associations of patriarchal life. It extends from the Urnerloch, in the Teufelberg, to Mount Furca—preserving a direction of north-east to south-west—and occupies a space of about three leagues in length, by a quarter in breadth. Six small lateral valleys open into it, carrying their torrents



into the Reuss by which it is traversed through its whole length. It is probably the very highest land in Switzerland with a fixed population, and contains four villages. The winter lasts full seven months; and during the other five, there are but few days on which fires can be dispensed with. It is entirely devoted to the grazing of cattle, and shut completely in by primitive mountains, on which are the glaciers of St. Anne, Matt, Biel, and Weisswasser.

Were we suddenly transported into its green recesses, without having previously encountered either the fatigue of ascent, or the perplexing labyrinths which meet in its centre, we should look upon it, perhaps, only as a plain covered with verdant meadows, and encircled with hills of the third class. Where the ground is flat, the descent is almost imperceptible: to the right and left, nature has flung her tapestry of richest verdure along the precipices, which serve as a frame to the picture, and to whose bald or snowy summits the flush of vegetation forms a strong and beautiful contrast. No fallen rocks—no trace of devastating cataracts—nor chasm in the soil, betray the savage features of the surrounding Alps. Still, in the midst of this apparent beauty and fertility, the total absence of fruit and forest trees—with the exception already stated, and a few straggling alders near the Reuss—forms a striking anomaly in the landscape. But, when we reflect that the lowest part of this valley is higher than the summit of our own Snowdon, and that its luxuriant pastures are inclosed by mountains which rise far above the line of eternal congelation, the mystery is solved; and we are rather surprised to find herbage at all, where, in other countries, we should have found only rocks and snow.*

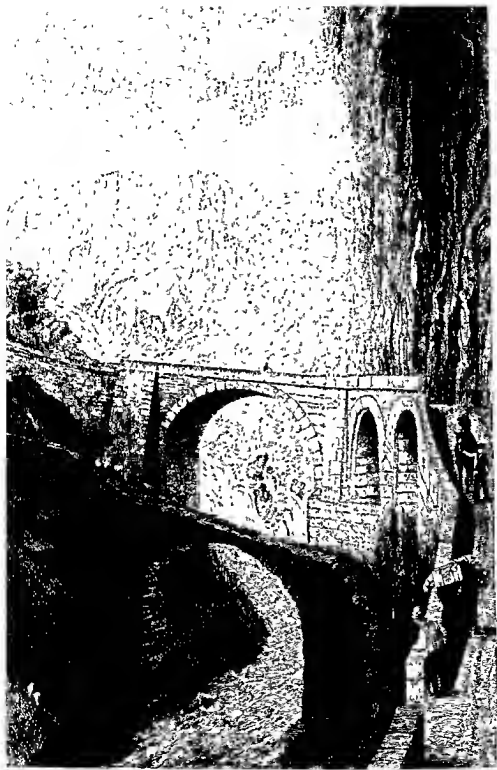
According to local tradition, however, the valley is stated to have possessed considerable forests at one time, and which, from certain facts, alluded to in our account of the Splügen, is by no means improbable. In various districts of Switzerland, the highest forests have been long observed to be gradually diminishing in their vigour and dimensions, and, in several instances, to maintain a sort of spontaneous and retrograde movement towards the valleys. In the Val-Ursern, however, the want of forests is amply compensated by the excellence of the pasture; and from this—with the exception of its profits as a channel of traffic—the canton derives the whole strength of its resources. There is another singularity observable throughout the whole of this valley: the houses, owing to

* In certain situations in these Alps, the *pinus cembra* thrives at an elevation of 6,450 feet, the *pinus picea* at 6,300; while the *rhododendron* is found at the height of 6,780 feet. It is a curious and well ascertained fact, that at heights where even the *rhododendron* can hardly flourish, certain flowers, which in the valleys are void of smell, exhale at this elevation the most delicious perfume, and acquire uncommon beauty and vigour;—and such, by poetical simile, is the case with the human mind, the virtues or powers of which require a peculiar soil, and peculiar circumstances, to give them vigorous expansion

the deficiency of native timber, already stated, are built of stone, generally rough unhewn granite, and rising out of the green sward, unshaded by even the most ordinary shrubbery or garden, present, in spite of the *beau gazon* of their *prairies*, a rather bleak and monotonous aspect, and may thus be individualized and counted from a great distance. This is certainly objectionable as to picturesque effect—every object is so isolated, and so clearly defined, and the extreme points of view so inconsiderable, that the charm created by the mutual interruption, blending and softening of features in the landscape, and the effect produced by their gradually vanishing away in the distance—which “lends enchantment to the view”—are nearly lost. Every object seems so literally within reach, and in such undisguised reality, that there seems nothing left to engage the fancy by picturesque illusions. Nor are these disadvantages of the landscape counteracted by any striking effects of rural costume, such as, in other parts of the confederation, so often give life and variety to the natural scenery; the dress of Uri is strictly characteristic of the wearer—well adapted for service, but not for show.

The only prominent features which attract the eye, are two or three small churches, pleasantly situated—particularly the one above Andermatt—and scrupulously whitewashed: the old tower, already mentioned as the remains of an ancient castle, belonging to the lords of Hospital; and some fantastic frost-work looking rocks in the neighbourhood—particularly those on the left, as we descend the St. Gothard—which present a striking resemblance to the loop-holes and battlements of some decayed citadel. With these exceptions, the Valley of Ursern may be described in the words of Tschudi, as, “*eine lustige Wildnitz*”—an agreeable sort of desert.* But when we take the wilder features in detail—such as the dangerous pass of the Schöllenen, second only to that of the Cardinell in its accumulated list of “horrible and awful,” we shall perceive that this route has every requisite for making a powerful and lasting impression on the mind, and embraces within its own narrow limits the most pastoral scenes, in close contiguity with others, from the mere contemplation of which the imagination shrinks appalled. The 27th of August last (1834), the hurricane, so ably sketched by Dr. Johnson, and some particulars of which we have already laid before our readers, proved most disastrous to this canton, particularly to the valley now described. The facts are thus briefly described in the “*Fédéral*,” a Geneva paper, published a few days after the painful occurrence:—“*Les continuelles chaleurs de cet été avaient fondu d'énormes masses de neige et de glace entassées sur les hautes montagnes, et par conséquent grossi toutes les rivières,*

* Alpenrosen, 1812, art. par Aug. W. Schlegel.



surtout le Reuss, lorsque le 27 du matin un orage épouvantable eclata sur le pays et le ravagea entierement par l'impétuosité des vents, par la foudre, et les torrens de pluie qui ne cessaient de tomber jusqu'au lendemain. Un grand nombre des maisons et de ponts ont été emportés par la violence des flots, plusieurs routes ont été détruites, et toutes les plaines changées en d'immenses lacs. La desolation est extrême dans ce malheureux pays, où la récolte des foinz avait déjà été réduite à rien par les grandes secheresses de cette année, et où le bétail a été atteint des maladies longues et mortelles”*

On quitting the green meadows of Andermatt, the road is carried through the *Urnerloch*, a gallery excavated, with much labour and ingenuity, through the projecting flank of the Teufelsberg, a work which has been of incalculable advantage to commerce and the protection of human life. Till this spirited work—two hundred and twenty feet long, by twelve in breadth—was completed, in 1707, this pass was one of the most dangerous in the Alps, consisting of a rude scaffolding of wood, supported from the exterior of the rock, and hanging in doubtful equilibrium over the boiling chasm beneath. Along this lofty and ill secured suspension-bridge, all traffic between the Valley of the Reuss and that of the Levantine was exclusively maintained for centuries, and, among old travellers, the doubling of this promontory was considered as a step that required no little courage and self possession. The credit of having achieved this arduous task is due to Moretini, of Locarno—greatly enlarged, however, by later engineers, and likely to become the object of still further improvements.

The next object of attraction, and which we reach by a steep descent, is the far-famed DEVIL'S BRIDGE—constructed originally, it is stated, in 1118, by Giraldus, abbot of Einsiedeln. The span of the arch is seventy five feet, and its height, from the surface of the water to the key stone, about one hundred, but, as the arch spans a cataract almost vertical in its descent, the bridge thus acquires an elevation of at least two hundred feet additional. The whole scene is full of savage grandeur. The granite rocks rise sheer and unbroken from the water's edge, and as if they bent in mutual approximation over our heads, and threatened to obliterate the dismal path which the labour of ages has chiselled out of

* Another account with which we are just favoured, states the following striking and melancholy facts.—

Les ravages ont déjà commencé dans la vallée d'Urseren. Depuis huit jours des pluies continuelles avaient forcé les bergers de ramener leur bétail demi mort des montagnes. La vallée fut transformée en lac. L'eau était si haute que le bétail se noyait même dans les parties supérieures des batimens. Partout la Reuss était sortie de son lit. Au milieu des éclats de la foudre et au bruit du tocsin les hommes luttèrent contre les élémens pour sauver leurs habitans, tandis que les femmes priaient et pleuraient à l'église &c. Le 27 à midi la distance d'Amstäg vers Alorf était transformée en lac, au milieu duquel les maisons paraissaient comme des îles.

their flanks, or carried on arches along the brink of the torrent. What a contrast is here, to the green, oblivious landscape, through which, but an hour before, we had sauntered, with scarcely any feeling save that of pleasing apathy—where the objects presented to the eye were not such as to rouse the mind into action, but left it to the full enjoyment of its own dreamy listlessness. But here, the deafening roar of the surge, as it struggled in savage conflict with the opposing rocks, and leaped, and foamed, and thundered forth its hoarse song of triumph—the feeling of personal danger—the shaking of the low parapet where we stood—the heetling cliffs along whose flanks the sheeted vapour floated in thin, transparent folds—while sudden gusts and currents of wind, caused by the rapidity of the torrent, alternately condensed, and dissipated, and renewed these storm-bred exhalations, and swept them, like showers, in the spectator's face—all burst upon us with a novelty and force which baffle description.

The new bridge, even while we stand on its centre—itsself twenty-seven feet higher than the old one—seems forgotten, amidst the awful appendages with which it is enclosed; yet, in the solidity of its structure, boldness of design, and airy expanse of arch, we have seen nothing—the passage of the Via Mala excepted—which affords more striking evidence how the genius and daring of man may triumph over the most gigantic obstacles. In contemplating a scene like the present, a strange spell seems to rivet us to the spot; and—while a multitude of horrid imaginings throng thick upon the fancy, and carry us back to the fearful drama enacted in this gorge—the clang of arms—the shout of combatants, arise confusedly with the blustering of the waves: then the crash of the dividing arch, the shrieks of despair as the victims sank, and were swept down by the devouring surge—all pass rapidly before the mind's eye, and conjure up that dismal tragedy, in all its truth and intensity; and never was there theatre more congenial for the display of wildest passions—or more in unison with every imaginable horror, than that of the Devil's Bridge. But, to see and to feel this in all its force, the spectator must be *alone* with nature.

The sanguinary conflict alluded to, and for which this dreary gorge served as the arena, may be thus summed up:—On the 25th September, 1799, the Russian army, under the command of Suwarrow, entered the village of Andermatt. The troops were reduced to a state of absolute famine, and, while employed in ransacking the ill-stored larder of the inn, for something to appease the cravings of hunger, swallowed a large quantity of soap, which they probably mistook for the famous cheese of the cantons; all the leather also, tanned, or otherwise, which they could lay their hands on, was immediately cut up, hoiled, and eaten. Forced to retire before the Russians, the French, in effecting their retreat, blew

up part of the Urnerloch, so as to impede the enemy's advance, and destroyed the principal part of the Devil's Bridge, by which the communication, for a time was effectually cut off. The Russians, nevertheless, cleared the gallery of the Urnerloch, restored the communication across the horrid chasm, by means of beams of wood, lashed together with the officers' scarfs—but, in thus forcing the passage, several hundreds were plunged headlong into the gulf. "Our army," says the general, in his despatch, "penetrated the dark mountain cavern of Ursem, and made themselves masters of a bridge which connects two mountains, and justly bears the name of the *Devil's Bridge*. Though the enemy had destroyed it, the progress of our victorious soldiers was not impeded. Planks were tied together with the officers' sashes, and along that bridge they threw themselves from the precipices into tremendous abysses, and, falling in with the enemy, defeated them wherever they met. It now remained for our troops to climb a mountain, the summit of which is covered with eternal snow, and whose bleak, naked rocks, surpass every other in steepness. They were obliged to descend through cataracts rolling down with dreadful impetuosity, and hurling, with irresistible force, huge fragments of rocks, masses of snow, ice, and clay, by which numbers of men and horses were impelled down the yawning caverns, where some found their graves, and others escaped with the greatest difficulty. It is beyond the power of language, he concludes, "to paint this awful spectacle in all its horrors!"

The preceding is the Russian, the annexed is the French, account, by Dumas, stating the position of the contending parties, a few weeks previous to the facts now recorded. On the 15th of August, General Lecourbe having joined the brigade of General Loison, on the same day that he had carried the defences of the Mayenthal, advanced to secure the important post of the St Gothard, and, about four o'clock, met the outposts of the Imperialists, and forced them to fall back upon their entrenchments at the Devil's Bridge, these rested upon the rocks on the right bank of the torrent of the Reuss. The French presented themselves at the bridge, and charging the Austrians, reckoned on passing it in the confusion with them, when suddenly the bridge disappeared between the parapets!—Thirty feet of its length had fallen, with those who were fighting upon it, into the gulf below and the remaining combatants were separated.

This event forced the French grenadiers, who had advanced to the charge, to effect a retreat, but, borne on by those who were behind them, they were for some time exposed to a murderous fire from the Imperialists on the opposite rocks. During the night, the Austrians retreated by the Ober Alp, to avoid being cut off by the brigade of General Gudin, who had made a *detour* by the

Grinsel, and fought his way with incredible difficulty across the Furca, to fall upon the rear of the Imperialists: Lecourbe's troops, who had, during the night, repaired the bridge, found Gudin's brigade, on the morning of the 18th, on the right bank of the Reuss, in possession of the enemy's position. The conquest of the pass of the St. Gothard was the consequence, and, within forty-eight hours of the general movement of the French, Lecourbe was master of the summit and the valley by which he had ascended, but which, as already stated, yielded to the Russians on the 25th of September following.*

From this point the Reuss pursues its way through a succession of rapids—indeed, its whole course may be described as almost one continued cataract—far outstripping the “arrowy Rhone,” and probably every other river in Europe. From the St. Gothard to the Val-Ursern alone, a distance of scarcely two leagues, it falls at least 2,000 feet, and bounds from rock to rock with a thundering impetuosity, that fills the whole defile with its noise and spray. In the Val-Ursern its fury is abated by the level nature of the soil; but once past the gorge of the Teufelsberg, it resumes all its former character, and in the short space of four leagues, falls 2,500 feet, and only on reaching Amstäg becomes modified in its velocity.

In the gorge of the Schollenen, one of the most glacial and savage in the whole chain of Helvetian Alps, the new road is twice conducted across the river on admirable bridges—that which spans the Göschenenbach is eighty-six feet high, fifty-nine in length, and eighteen broad. The Urnerloch, as above stated, has been greatly widened and improved, all the turnings rendered spacious and level, and the precipices by which the road is bordered securely flanked with granite pillars, at intervals of eight or nine feet. The upper portion of this superb route was completed under the direction of the engineer Colombrano, and undertaken, as formerly stated, in order to keep pace with the vast improvements on the Splügen, the great commercial rival of the St. Gothard. It is the intention of the canton to reconstruct the whole of the route from this point to Fluelen, and thence along the margin of the lake to Brunnen—so as to unite the St. Gothard with the routes of Schwytz, Zurich, and Lucern, through Küsnacht—a measure which would obviate the generally disagreeable, and often dangerous, passage by water. It is, indeed, a gigantic enterprise on the part of so small a canton—but it is the cradle of native liberty—and from a people who still unite Spartan industry with Spartan frugality, much may be anticipated.

About two leagues below Andermatt the valley widens, and takes its more

* *Précis des Evénements Militaires—Excursions in the Alps*—an excellent work—by BROCKEPOW.

characteristic name of—The Valley of the Reuss. The traffic in flour and potatoes appears considerable, and three hundred horses, we were told, are employed by the inhabitants of Ursern alone in the transport of merchandize. This route, owing to its ancient renown, and now greatly recommended by recent improvements, is much frequented by tourists, particularly English, German, and Russians, the three great *nomadic*, or rather peripatetic nations of Europe.

A short way below Wasen, we again cross the river by the Plaffensprung or Friar's Leap, a stupendous bridge of ninety feet span. It is so named in record of an athletic monk, who, having captured some gentle Proserpine of Uri, and fearing reprisals on his flight, took the dreadful gorge at a venture, and carried her in triumph to his convent.¹ A fact like this may well dispute precedence with that of the Teufelstein,* and, if not evincing equal strength, is at least a proof of much better taste.

On approaching Amsteg the valley undergoes a thorough change in its fertility and vegetable products. Villages, and solitary cottages, are sprinkled over the acclivities—cultivation is carried to greater extent—magnificent pines overshadow the road, some of which measure twelve feet in girth, and a hundred in height. In the Val Maderan, which winds off to the right, mines of iron were formerly wrought with success, and, in that of the Rupleten, higher up, there are veins of lead and copper. Nearly opposite Riedt, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Insch, are some old alum works, where the rocks, consisting principally of mica slate, are, for the most part, in a state of decomposition. Not far from Plaffensprung, caverns have been discovered in several places filled with crystals, among which that of the Sandbalme is the most remarkable, but is now completely robbed of its superb crystals. It is very extensive, and situated in a thick vein of quartz, containing large crystals of calcareous *spath*, and traversed by numerous veins of *chlorite*,—nearly allied to *talc*,—of a dark green colour, and glistening lustre.

The upper valley of the Reuss runs in a south west direction, and, being thus placed almost entirely in the common direction of the chain of Alps, is very unfavourable for studying the stratification of the mountains. On every side we observe naked rocks at the height of eight thousand feet, of a deep brown, whose bases are formed of hills of accumulated *debris*, and covered over with verdure. These rocks are also divided in several places by clefts running in parallel directions, a circumstance which contributes still more to the difficulty of making

* Or Devil's Crag from a tradition that I satanic majesty having laid a high bet that he would transport it across the St. Gothard suddenly lost his bold and his money at the same instant and dropped it in its present situation.

correct observations on the geology of this district; so that it is only in a small proportion of the lateral valleys, by which the rocks are cut transversely, and by turning occasionally back to contemplate the great masses of the range, that one can distinctly observe the southern inclination of the layers, nearly vertical, of all these rocks of gneiss.

The village of Amstäg in itself has little to gratify the traveller's curiosity. The remains of an ancient castle are shewn in the outskirts as a disputed topic among antiquaries, of whom, some have described it as the famous Twing-Uri—the stronghold of Gessler—others, as that of the seigneurs of Silenen. Here also, as at Chiavenna and Lugano on the Italian side, are natural grottoes, within which a stream of cold air circulates, and a low and equable temperature is thus maintained throughout the year. There was, also, not long since, a mill worth visiting, where bones were ground into powder; and this, hoiled up with milk or water, served as an excellent substitute for more expensive *flour* in the feeding of pigs and poultry.

It is now that every step taken in advance seems to intimate that we are on holy ground—the birth-place of Swiss independence! The town of Altorf, and the village of Bürglen—all those natural features upon which the sacred name of liberty is so indelibly stamped—all those proud associations with which they are so inseparably blended—all those circumstances to which the ear has listened with such avidity, and on which the mind, at one period or other, has dwelt with such awakened interest—are now before us; and every traveller, to whom the name of freedom is dear, feels, in his approach to Altorf, a devotion similar to that of some pilgrim, when the shrine—at which he had journeyed fondly and far to present his offering, and which had so long been embodied in his mind's eye—lifts its grey walls into the horizon at last, and, with its joyous vesper peal, welcomes him to the sanctuary!

Every feature of the landscape has now become eloquent—every rock presents its tradition—every tower its record of the oppressed and the oppressor—the tyrant Gessler and the “patriot Tell!” Gazing upon the scene where such deeds have transpired, every romantic incident starts again to life—the fountain of youthful impressions is reopened, and all their treasured reminiscences, kindled into a warmth congenial to the subject, forcibly remind us—now that we are on the spot—of times when the story of Tell fell upon the ear like inspiration, and almost before we could articulate, much less appreciate the term, implanted in our hearts that love of independence, and sympathy for the oppressed, which neither time nor circumstance, we trust, can ever diminish or pervert.

The approach to Altorf, in point of natural scenery, is picturesque, and even

majestic, the soil, rich and productive, with a comparatively mild and genial climate. In proof of this, the vegetation is rapid, and fruits, common to the reverse of the Alps, are here ripened, and acquire every perfection in size and flavour. With the exception of a few patches raised by *amateurs*, it appears strange that, in a soil so apparently fitted for such crops, neither wheat, nor indeed any other grain, is cultivated, so that the golden tints of autumnal fields are unknown, and the same monotonous green livery, with the variety of an Alpine winter, pervades the whole scene, and curtails the year, seemingly, of its natural proportions. It must be allowed, however, that the ripening orchards and *bronzing* woods form a beautiful contrast with the dense foliage of the walnut trees, and the deep brilliant green of the meadows, and, greatly enhanced by the magnificent frame-work in which they are set, awaken in the traveller's mind a pleasing and lasting partiality for Altorf and its scenery.

Since the terrible calamity of 1799, when a conflagration reduced the whole town to ashes, it has been entirely rebuilt, and, in several instances, embellished with public edifices, of which the handsome new church and town house may serve as specimens. The *ossuary* is worth a visit, and what, on account of the beautiful view it commands, and the romantic situation which it occupies, will gratify every lover of the picturesque, is the Capuchin convent. The first object, however, to which the stranger is conducted, and probably the first—if his faith be sound—which he would desire to visit, is an old tower, said to enclose the space originally occupied by Tell's linden tree. The next is Burglen, the birth place of the hero, where he may still be seen, under a clear winter moon, it is said, practising that noble instrument of Helvetic liberty—the cross-bow!

But, waving for the present our intended remarks on the scenery and statistics of Uri, we revert to that stirring period of Swiss confederacy when the strong holds of despotism were razed to the ground, and the standard of freedom planted on their ruins.

After the total discomfiture of his troops on the field of *Donnerhuel*, and a subsequent but ineffectual attempt to crush the growing spirit of freedom in Zurich, the emperor Albert abandoned his hostile intentions, and intimated to the confederates of Waldstetten, his earnest desire of seeing them affectionate children of his royal house, and consulting their personal interests by swearing fealty to him as their sovereign. With these proffers of counsel and protection he despatched Herman Gessler, of Brunegg, and Beringer, of Landenberg, of whom, contrary to established custom, the first took up his abode in a fortress of Uri—supposed to be the *Twing* Uri already noticed.

From this moment the tolls were raised, the most venial offences punished

with imprisonment and forfeiture, and the inhabitants treated with every mark of contempt and insolent domination. Happening one day to ride past a newly-built house belonging to Stauffacher, in the village of Steinen—"What!" exclaimed the bailiff, "shall it be endured that these grovelling peasants should erect such an edifice as this? If boors are to be so lodged—*quid facient magistri?*"

On another occasion, when Arnold Anderhalden, of Melchthal, was sentenced, for some trivial offence, to forfeit a yoke of fine oxen, a servant of Gessler's colleague in office, Landenberg, forcibly unyoked the oxen from the plough, accompanying the act with the insulting remark, that such clod-poles might draw their own ploughs! This language so incensed the young Arnold, that he levelled a blow at the speaker, which broke two of his fingers, and, guessing the punishment that would follow, immediately betook himself to the mountains. To revenge this offence, the enraged Landenberg sentenced the aged father of Arnold to have both his eyes put out.—Such, at that unhappy epoch, was the state of affairs. Whoever betrayed the least spirit of independence, or manly deportment, were subject to the most cutting insults, chastisement, and extortion: while, on the other hand, those who became the partisans of the governors, or the mere tools of their exactions, received special marks of distinction, and, in all contested questions, were pronounced infallibly in the right. The countenance of these petty despots, however, did not always protect the culprit from the just reward of outrages committed on the strength of such alliance. As an example of their summary punishment, we may cite the case of the governor of a castle in the lake of Lowerz, who, having brought dishonour and ruin upon a young lady of family and consideration in Arth, fell by the hands of her brother, and thus expiated the atrocity with his blood. As a parallel instance—a friend of Landenberg, the young lord of Wolfenchiess, in Unterwalden, having seen the beautiful wife of Conrad, of Baumgarten, at Alzellen, and, finding that her husband was absent, desired, in the most peremptory and revolting terms, that she would prepare him a bath; but the lady having called her husband from the field, and explained to him the repeated indignities to which she had been exposed, his resentment was so kindled at the recital, that, rushing into the chamber, he sacrificed the licentious young noble on the spot.*

Thus, having lost all confidence in the equity and justice of government, every man became the avenger of his own wrongs—a system which must ever lead to

* For similar instances of despotism on the part of these Austrian bailiffs, see, in a former page, our notice of the Schamserthal, or Valley of Schams.—*Vide also Zschokke—Müller, &c.*

To this Stauffacher made no reply; but, hastening to the lake, embarked, and landing in the territory of Uri, proceeded to the house of Walter Fürst at Attinghausen, where he found young Arnold of Melchthal, who had escaped, as above mentioned, from the vengeance of Landenberg, and remained here in concealment,

"Wearing man's mute anguish sternly."

Once met, the conversation soon turned upon the degraded state of the country, their ruined prospects, the increasing rigour and oppression which wasted the property, and paralysed the hearts of the people. Of the lawless despotism to which they were slaves, the present situation of Arnold, and the horrid sentence so recently carried into effect upon his father, afforded a striking example, and called loudly for vengeance. They instanced the many fruitless petitions addressed to the sovereign, imploring him to check the crimes of his representatives, and ratify the conditions upon which alone they had placed themselves under his protection—to all of which he had not only turned a deaf ear, but threatened to sever them from the empire, and throw them under the yoke of Austria. As God had never, said they, delegated to any sovereign permission to execute under the name of law what in reality was gross injustice, so they would repose with implicit confidence on Divine succour and arbitration in the good cause, and were resolved to shake off the ignominious yoke by which they were goaded to distraction, or perish in the attempt.

With this great object in view each repaired to his home, and there, by cautious intercourse with his friends and comrades, endeavoured to form a just estimate how far the minds of the people were ripe for action in the projected struggle for independence. After this eventful conference, the same party continued their interviews at concerted hours in the night, and the point of rendezvous selected for this purpose was a lonely sequestered strip of meadow, in an angle of the lake, called Grutli, surrounded by thickets, at the foot of the rock of Seelisberg, and opposite the village of Brunnen.* It was here, far from every human habitation, that the ripening conspiracy, matured by every successive meeting in which evidence was adduced of a hearty cooperation on the part of the inhabitants, speedily acquired its full complement of votes.

In the night of the seventeenth of November they again met in the same place, the meadow of Grutli, when each of them, in proof of the alacrity with which the appeal had been answered, presented ten brother confederates—men who

* The reader will form a perfect idea of this locality, as well as of every other which verbal description may fail to paint with sufficient clearness, by reference to the accompanying illustration and map.



were fully alive to their country's wrongs, and prepared to adjust them at the peril of their lives. Mutually assured of the inviolable sincerity with which their cause had been espoused, the three founders of the patriotic League now sealed the compact by a solemn appeal to Him in whose eyes prince and peasant were equal*. With uplifted hands, and eyes fixed upon the starry firmament under whose friendly canopy their meetings had been matured into action, they bound themselves by an express vow to redress their country's injuries, to have no interest at heart save the common welfare, to endure no wrongs, and to commit no trespass, to respect the political rights of the emperor, as hereditary Comte of Hapsburg, but to put an immediate check to the gross oppression exercised by his representatives, and, while they expressed a just indignation at the measures, to offer no personal injury to the men.

This done, the thirty who had the same night joined the confederacy, advanced to unite in the solemn obligation, and in like manner called upon God and the saints to witness their devotion to the cause, and their readiness to stake their lives and substance, and every earthly consideration, for their country's good, and the regeneration of her freedom.

Having thus accomplished the first important step towards the glorious object in view, and appointed the approaching new year's-eve for carrying their measures into effect, they repaired—each to his home, where, having secured his herds and property from the winter's severity, and from the more gripping advance of a petty tyrant, he might indulge those delicious anticipations which the hopes of liberty and the belief of a speedy retribution warranted.

"And thus they parted by the qu' es lake
In the clear star light each the strength to rouse
Of the free hills."

In the meantime, certain misgivings and appearances, as indicative of the popular feeling, disturbed the mind of Gessler, and struck him with an ominous presentiment that all was not right. The people, he thought, carried in their looks less abject submission to his authority, an air of confidence, and even haughtiness, began to manifest itself among them, while in their speech there was

* Ces trente trois vrais patriotes jurèrent en se servant les mains — DE NE RIEN ENTREPRENDRE SANS LA PARTICIPATION DE LEURS CONFÉDÉRÉS DE SE SOUTENIR ET D'ÊTRE FIDÈLES LES UNS AUX AUTRES JUSQU'À LA MORT DE DÉFENDRE LES ANCIENS PRIVILÈGES DE NE PORTER AUCUN PRÉJUDICE AUX COMTES DE HAPSBURG NI DANS LEURS DROITS NI DANS LEURS POSSESSIONS, ET DE NE POINT MALTRAITER LEURS OUVRIERS. Alors les trois chefs s'avancèrent au milieu de l'assemblée et jurèrent les mains levées au ciel et au nom du DIEU qui a créé les paysans et les empereurs et assuré aux uns comme aux autres la jouissance de tous les droits de l'homme DE COMBATTRE COURAGEUSEMENT POUR LA LIBERTÉ ET DE LA TRANSMETTRE À LEURS DESCENDANS.

less deference observed to his commands; and, in short, that they walked erect, and assumed the bearing of men, when they should have crouched in servile obeisance to his delegated power, and borne themselves as slaves! This, as he rightly augured, was alarming evidence against the stability of the existing government, and he resolved to probe the incipient disease, so as to minister with greater effect to its cure or suppression. The expedient which he adopted for the full solution of his doubts and suspicions on this head, was an experiment upon the loyalty of the people; and for this purpose he caused the ducal hat of Austria to be raised on a pole, with this command, that every one passing near, or within sight of it, should make obeisance, in proof of his homage and fealty to the prince. By this means it was concluded, that whoever should disobey the mandate, and pass the royal badge without the mark of honour stipulated, should be charged with disaffection, and treated accordingly—a measure which furnished both the means of discovering the disaffected, and the just grounds for their punishment.

“Ever suspecting;—worse than he inflicts
The tyrant fears.”

Shortly after this test of loyalty to the house of Austria was attempted to be enforced, it happened that William Tell, the cross-bowman of Bürglen, and one of the above-named heroes of Grutli, passed the symbol of tyranny without the required acknowledgment, and being instantly arrested, was hurried into the presence of Gessler. “Wherefore,” demanded the incensed bailiff, “hast thou disobeyed my orders, and failed in thy respect to the king of the Romans? why hast thou dared to pass before the sacred badge of thy sovereign without the mark of homage demanded?” “Verily,” answered Tell, “how this happened, I know not—’tis an accident, and no mark of contempt—suffer me, therefore, in thy clemency, to depart; were I possessed of ordinary sagacity, I should hardly have so long borne the name of Tell.”* Gessler, however, was not to be softened by the defence—as just stated in the words of an old author—hut, knowing that Tell had a family of fine children, and at the same time was the best bowman in the jurisdiction, ordered the children to be brought before him and confronted with their father. “To which of these children,” inquired Gessler, “art thou most strongly attached?” “I make no distinctions,” replied Tell; “my children are all equally dear to me.” “So,” said the governor, “I hear that thou art an excellent marksman, and shall forthwith

* See the old chronicle—Tell, in the original, means weak intellect, *balourd*—but a weakness like that of Brutus!

make trial of thy skill—a trial which may insure on the part of thy countrymen a more courteous observance of my injunctions. My order, therefore, is this, that with an arrow thou shalt split an apple placed on the head of one of thy children, and, in the event of thy missing the apple, or killing the child, thy own life shall be forfeited. Shocked at a proposal which outraged every feeling of human nature, and shuddering at the thought of being compelled to be the murderer of his own child, Tell passionately implored him to revoke the sentence, or substitute a different form of punishment. But the inexorable Gessler, insulting his supplication, ordered him either to comply instantly with the conditions proposed, or he sent, with his whole family, to the scaffold.

The distracted father, under these circumstances, placed his child's life and his own at the merciful disposal of Heaven, and having prayed fervently that he might die a thousand deaths rather than become thus instrumental in a tyrant's hand to that of his child, he rose with a firm and composed air, and, taking the boy in his arms, prepared for the inhuman ordeal. The next instant the child was placed under the linden tree which shaded the market place, while the ferocious bailiff, little calculating the result, placed the apple with his own hand upon the child's head—a boy of six years' old—and repeating the former sentence, commanded the father to draw his bow. With that feeling of desperation by which the human mind is at times wound up to a pitch of self-possession and resolution unknown in the course of ordinary experience—the result of that excruciating suffering by which the nervous system has lost its natural irritability—Tell took up the bow, and adjusting with seeming apathy the shaft to the string, drew holdly—then staggered back like a man struck with sudden blindness, and as if his very spirit had passed away on the shot—but an exulting shout of triumph from the bystanders having instantly recalled his distracted senses, he opened his eyes to witness the cloven apple, and embrace his child.

In the midst of this affecting spectacle, Gessler alone stood unmoved—till, perceiving that Tell had still an arrow left, half concealed in his girdle, his suspicions were roused, yet, dissembling the paroxysm of rage which the sight had kindled—"For what purpose, he inquired, "hast thou concealed the shaft which now peers from thy quiver? answer me on thy life!" The question threw an air of slight embarrassment into the features of Tell, who answered, "That it was customary, among the cross bowmen of Uri to have always one arrow in reserve, an explanation which only served to confirm the suspicions of Gessler. "Nay—nay— resumed the latter—"tell me thy real motive, and, whatever it may have been, speak frankly, and thy life is

spared—dissemble, and thou shalt die.” “So be it, then,” answered Tell, “according to thy pleasure; the arrow which thou seest was intended, had I slain my child with the first, to avenge his death by —.” “How!” exclaimed the hailiff; “*avenge?*” “Yes,” calmly continued Tell, “to avenge his death by sacrificing thine! and thou perceivest that my shaft is not one to miscarry.—This much in obedience to thy command!”

“Well, thou hast spoken frankly,” answered Gessler; “and since I have promised thee thy life, I shall not swerve from my word; but, as I now perceive thy kindly intentions towards my person, I shall forthwith closet thee so safely, that thy bow, like thyself, shall ever after be harmless, and where the light of sun or moon shall never more visit thine eyes!” Hereupon the guard laid hands upon Tell, hound, and conducted him to the little port of Fluelen,* while Gessler, immediately following, entered the bark prepared for the occasion, and ordered the bow and quiver of Tell to be carefully put on board at the same time—with the intention, it is supposed, of either keeping them under safer custody, or of hanging them up, according to religious custom, on some altar, as an *ex voto* for his personal safety.

Having embarked with the prisoner, under the safe conduct of his armed dependents, Gessler ordered them to row as far as Brunnen,† a distance of three and a half leagues, intending to land at that point, and, passing through the territory of Schwyz, lodge the redoubted howman in the dungeon of Kißnacht, where he was destined to undergo the rigour of his sentence. The arms were deposited at the feet of the master pilot, and the oars brought into full play. Suddenly, however, a storm, as is still common in this lake, overtook them between Fluelen and Sissigen,‡ accompanied with violent gusts of wind, which made their bark the sport of the waves, and threatened to engulf the alarmed hailiff and his crew. At this moment of imminent peril, Gessler was reminded by one of his attendants, that the prisoner Tell was no less skilful in the management of a boat, than in the exercise of the bow. “And now,” said he, representing to his master the immediate risk of life,—“all, even to the pilot, are paralysed with terror, and totally unfit to manage the helm—why then not avail thyself, in desperate circumstances, of one who, though a prisoner,

* The port of Altorf, about half a league from the latter, and placed at the foot of Mount Rorstock. Here all merchandise passing through Uri is landed: and, nearly opposite, is the village of Seedorf, at the embouchure of the Reuss.

† Remarkable also as having been the place where the deputies from these cantons, in 1793, determined to maintain their independence.

“REDING there his standard raised, Drew his sword on Brunnen’s plain.”

See “*Wanderer in Switzerland*,” also, page 152.

‡ Village on the right, beyond the Achsenberg, about half way to Brunnen. See page 151

is robust, well skilled in such storms, and who even now appears calm and collected?' Gessler, who felt that his life was in jeopardy, addressed Tell accordingly, and told him, that if he thought himself capable of promoting the general safety, he should he forthwith unbound Tell, having replied that, by the grace of God, he could still save them, was instantly freed of his shackles, and placed at the helm, while the boat, answering to a master's hand, kept its course steadily through the mountain surge, as if conscious of the free spirit that had now taken the command

Between Sissigen and Fluelen are two mountains, the great and lesser Achsenberg, whose sides hemming in, and rising perpendicularly from, the hed of the lake, offered not a single platform where a human foot could stand These, on one hand, while he steered the barge directly towards them, and the bow and arrow which lay at his feet, half forgotten amidst the general alarm, on the other, divided Tell's attention, and promised a fortunate termination to the storm As the prow of the vessel was driven inland, Tell perceived a solitary table rock, and called aloud to the rowers to redouble their efforts till they should have once passed the precipice ahead, observing with ominous truth, that it was the most dangerous point in the whole lake At the instant they came abreast of the point indicated, Tell turned the helm suddenly towards it, seized his faithful how, and, with an effort which sent the boat back into the lake, sprang lightly on shore, scaled the mountain, and fled into Schwyz Here, having reached the heights which border the main road between Art and Kussnacht, for which they at first set out, he chose a small hollow in the road, and concealing himself in the brushwood, lay in ambush till such time as the hailiff, having escaped the storm, should pass that way to his château

Gessler and his attendants, it appeared, had much difficulty, after the precipitate leave of their pilot, to save themselves, but succeeded at last, and effected a safe landing at Brunnen, where they took horse, and proceeded in the direction already described, which was the only route by which any communication existed with Kussnacht Arrived in the narrow defile where Tell lay concealed, the latter heard the denunciations pronounced against him as they passed, and the vengeance which Gessler breathed among his followers against the outlawed bowman and his family Had resolution been wanting, Tell had now heard sufficient to convince him that, had even his personal safety been effected, his innocent family must atone for the father, and torture or death extract the last bitter drops from their existence "Perhaps even now, thought he, "the tidings of my escape have reached Altorf, and loosened the tyrants fury on my defenceless home—or if not, there is but one step left by which private calamity can be averted and public wrongs redressed—but one step by which

a debasing yoke can be broken, and the hithright of freedom vindicated." Fired at the thought, he raised instinctively the unerring shaft to his eye, and as the tyrant fell, the last twang of the slackened bowstring was the first note of Helvetic liberty.

The deed achieved, Tell hastened back to Art, and, favoured by the night, arrived at Steinen, where he was received by his relation Stauffacher, one of the Grutli brothers, to whom he recounted the eventful history of the last twenty-four hours. Furnished with every means for his personal security, he proceeded thence to Brunnen, where he had so lately embarked as a felon in chains, and taking a boat, which was prepared for him by a secret friend of the cause, arrived safe in Uri. Here he was visited in his concealment by Walter Fürst, and the other confederates of the place, who communicated in their turn with those of Unterwalden, till every individual of that patriotic brotherhood was apprised of the fact by which their glorious plan had been so unexpectedly anticipated.*

At the tidings of the fate which had overtaken their oppressor, the merit of which was variously weighed, the people for an instant were struck with mingled terror and satisfaction; they dreaded the effects of Austrian vengeance, while they rejoiced in the prospect of native freedom: but strengthened at last by more intimate communication among themselves, their fears vanished—mutual confidence was established—and the departing year left every thing ripe for action—every patriot at his post.

On new-year's-eve, therefore, a young man, one of the Grutli band, repaired to the castle of Rossberg, in Obwalden, to visit a young girl, inmate of the castle, to whom he was shortly after to be married, and effected his entrance by means of a rope lowered from the window of her apartment. By the same means

* It is unnecessary to mention in this place the doubts that have, from time to time, been started respecting the authenticity of the preceding history, and which have been as often rebutted. For ourselves, we are disposed to give full credence to the legend; and for those who may still view it as fabulous, yet feel inclined to investigate the question, we cannot recommend anything so good as the researches of Baron Zur-Lauben, as detailed in his patriotic letter on that subject. Among other circumstances there mentioned, it appears, from an immemorial tradition, that WILHELM TELL, the same who in 1307 shot Gessler, perished in 1350 by an inundation which destroyed the village of Bürglen, his birth-place. According to Klingenberg's Chronicle, written towards the close of the fourteenth century, WILHELMUS TELLO, *Uraniensis, libertatis propugnator*, lived in 1307, and fought at the battle of Morgarten, in 1315, after which he became administrator of the revenues of the church of Bürglen, then belonging to the abbey of Lucern. Zur-Lauben, however, does not give implicit credit to the manner of Tell's death; but the number and character of the authorities which he quotes, are sufficient to stagger the most obstinate sceptic, and to vindicate the truth of Helvetic history. See also Zschokke, Muller, Coxe, Simond, and a host of German authors on the same topic. It will be remembered, that a son of the celebrated Haller having, on the authority of *Sara Grammaticus*, criticised the story of Tell (*Fable Danoise*) so as to injure the popular version, the work was publicly burnt in Uri by a decree of the Waldstetten.

twenty of his companions were hoisted up, during the night, from the moat, where they lay concealed, and, having mustered their full strength on the ramparts, soon found the governor and his servants at their disposal, and all means of resistance removed.

Early in the morning of new-year's-day, Landenberg, having left the castle of Sarnen to attend public mass at a short distance, was met on his way thither by twenty men from Unterwalden, who, in concert with their brethren, had come to offer their usual gifts and compliments on occasion of the new year. Pleased with this mark of attachment, and with the public tranquillity which it seemed to manifest, the governor invited them to enter the castle, and, without remembering the excellent maxim—"Timeo et Danaos et dona ferentes," unwittingly resigned his fortress into their hands, for no sooner had they passed under the arch than they blew a horn—a signal at which every man screwing a steel-blade to his peasant's staff, was instantly armed with a weapon of offence, which staggered all opposition, and put them in immediate possession of the castle. Being joined at the same time by thirty more of their companions, who had lain concealed in an adjoining thicket, the capture was rendered as complete as it was bloodless. Landenburg, under whose eye this sudden revolution was effected, fled with his attendants precipitately across the meadows to Alpnach, but, being closely followed by his new-year's guests, he was speedily overtaken, and an oath exacted from him and his retainers, by which they were bound to quit forthwith and for ever the territory of the Waldstetten. Thus done, he was safely conducted to the frontier, and suffered to retire without molestation to Lucern.

Immediately thereafter the signals passed from height to height, and the beacon-fires of liberty blazed in triumph along the Alps. Still, however, thinking the nascent spirit of freedom insecure, so long as the country permitted the existence of those despotic fastnesses, from whose walls the withering blast of oppression had so often descended with pestilential influence on all around, they resolved, now that they had secured the tiger, to demolish his lair. Stauffacher, therefore, ably seconded by the men of Schwyz, proceeded forthwith to the lake of Lowerz, and razed the castle of Schwanau—the official residence of the hailiff already mentioned—while those of Uri, in prompt cooperation with their allies, took possession of the stronghold from which Gessler had so often issued his oppressive edicts. This last act seemed to guarantee the general safety, and consolidate the new system of peace and freedom, and again the *hohe-wacht*,* with responsive blaze, spread the joyful tidings from alp to alp.

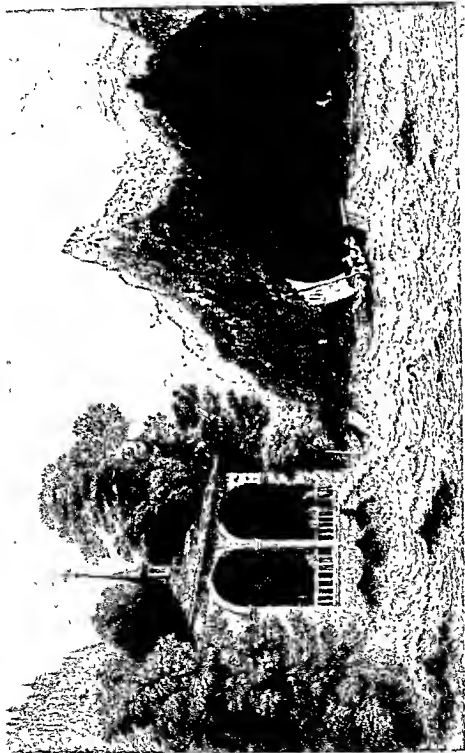
* The signal stations along the Alps—similar to those employed during the threatened invasion along the coast of Berwickshire—See *Scotland Illustrated* pp 15—25

On the following Sunday, the first of the new year, the deputies of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, met for the solemn renewal of that fraternal league which has continued to be the safeguard of their freedom down to the latter days—the source of internal prosperity, and the parent of those brilliant achievements which have immortalized the Swiss name, and raised monuments to freedom in every valley of the Alps.

Such, briefly, is the origin of the Helvetic Confederacy—no less remarkable for the fidelity, strength, and intelligence, which it has evinced during the progress of so many ages, than for the extraordinary circumstances which led to its formation. Although irritated, insulted, and oppressed by their governors, still, no sooner were these tools of a despotic government in their power, than the Swiss seemed to forget their wrongs, and, while they might have indulged in the bitterest spirit of revenge, suffered them to quit the scene of their oppressions—not only without personal violence, but under the protection of those whom they had provoked by so many insults, and impoverished by so many exactions. An act of such magnanimity, and so greatly enhanced by the fact of its being opposed to the system of *retaliation* so general at that early period, reflects the highest honour on the liberators of their country, and affords the strongest evidence of the disinterested patriotism, and purity of motives, by which they were actuated; and served as a noble foretaste of those gallant exploits which, often at fearful odds, they were afterwards destined to perform.

The Swiss confederacy claims for its founders none of those men who immortalize themselves by high enterprises which—often odious in principle, yet admired for their brilliant success—are transmitted with unmerited encomiums to posterity. The enterprise of three obscure individuals—almost unknown, beyond the narrow limits of the canton where they were born—was accomplished without violence and without bloodshed, and presents the only instance on record of a revolution having been effected without violent commotions in the state, and private treachery and assassinations. The union of three men, animated with the same spirit of liberty, communicated that spirit to their countrymen which has been perpetuated, strengthened, and approved by their descendants, and is at this day the animating and pervading principle of the Confederation. “Thus, O shade of Gessler,” they exclaim, “that same ducal hat by which, in cruel mockery, thou didst insult an oppressed people, has become the signal and badge of Helvetic freedom.”*

* See the Latin motto prefixed to the canton of Uri, in a preceding page; and for a sketch of the late revolutionary war in these cantons, see under the head of Lucern.



W. R. D. S. C. 711 P. 126.

SCHWYZ, ZUG, AND GLARIS.

RESERVING our further observations on the canton of Uri, till we have occasion to speak of it in connexion with those of Unterwald and Lucern, we now proceed with our excursion along the borders of the lake, and select from the vast field which is here thrown open to us such scenes as, whether from the beauty of natural scenery, or the force of historical association, seem best calculated to fix the attention. Embarking at Fluelen, we pursue the same course described in the *historical notice*, till attracted by a bold projecting rock of the Achsenberg, on the lower part of which, and overlooking the water by twelve or thirteen feet, stands the small chapel raised to perpetuate the escape of Tell from his oppressor, and its happy consequences on the destinies of his country. It was erected in votive testimony of Swiss gratitude, by the Land-gemeinde of Uri, in 1338—thirty-one years after the patriot's death, and while one hundred and fourteen individuals who had known him personally were still living. It contains, besides several *frescos*, all illustrative of his exploit, a picture executed by an artist of note in Burglen, the birth-place of Tell. A solemn *fête* is celebrated here every anniversary, and with great effect. About two miles north of this, a whitish mark on the perpendicular face of the Frohn Alp shows where, in 1801, a piece of the rock peeled off, and fell into the lake. The fragment which has left such a trifling blemish on the fair face of the mountain was *twelve hundred feet wide*: in the wave caused by its fall, five houses in the hamlet of Sissigen were overwhelmed, though a mile distant, and eleven of the inmates drowned; while a child found floating in its cradle, and asleep, was saved, and is now alive, says M. Simond, in the village. The whole scenery, for nine miles, comprising the lake of Uri, is stamped with peculiar sublimity.

Yon mountain crest holds converse with the stars
While from its flanks, by praline thunders riven,
And hoary forehead furrowed with deep scars,
Huge fragments, o'er the sullen waters driven,
Stand, like gigantic towers the o'ershadowed wave—
Relics of some vast temple in its grave."

On landing at Brunnen, we first set foot on Schwyz, that small territory which gave its name to the whole country; and, like an inconsiderable rivulet, scarcely

noted at its rise among the Alps, yet gathering strength and breadth at every step of its descent, assumed at length that important station in the chart of Europe which no rival force, nor hostile combination, has been able to crush during the progress of five hundred years—a mighty interval, in which so many other states have risen, prospered, waned, and passed away.

Brunnen is the great entrepôt for all goods destined for the Italian market, and which are conveyed to Thuelen by water, and thence across the St. Gothard. This local advantage gives an air of cheerful activity to the place, and employment to the excellent boatmen who traverse the lake in all directions.* Here also the Muotta falls into the lake, and offers one more interesting feature to the numerous and striking points of view which the situation commands. From the windows of the Eagle Hotel—an excellent inn—the stranger may enjoy at leisure a most extensive and variegated diorama of the upper lake, the bold frame in which it is imbedded, and the sublime objects which surround him on all hands, and silently lift the imagination from earth to heaven.

Schwyz, about a league distant, and in a direct line from the border of the lake, is built at the foot of the Mythen, a double-crested mountain 5868 feet in height, and with a wooden cross erected on one of its forked summits. The town itself, but particularly the vicinity, offers many neat and even elegant specimens of domestic architecture, and abounds in beautiful situations, of which the wealthier inhabitants have availed themselves, to construct villas and summer-houses—all in harmony with the natural landscape.† Nothing can be more beautiful than the approach to Schwyz; it presents a condensed picture of all that is most refreshing to the eye, or exhilarating to the mind; and seems to comprise within its narrow limits the essential elements of rural wealth and happiness.

The people are at length recovering from the effects of hostile pillage, and the numerous depressing circumstances by which their country was so deeply afflicted at the close of the last century. Prosperity, the sure reward of native industry, has once more given welcome pledges of her return. May the patriots who here watch with paternal solicitude over the public welfare, see their prospects brighten with every returning year! and never again witness the sword of the

* A private boat, suitable for a small party, may be engaged, from nine to ten francs, by those passing from Fluelen to Brunnen, three leagues and a half; but if the party halt to visit the Tell's platt or Grud; by the way, the charge will be increased in proportion. Tables will be given in the Appendix.

† The public buildings of interest are, the arsenal—the town-house—the church—the hospital—a public seminary—a Dominican nunnery—and a Capuchin convent. The greatest curiosity is, the cabinet of medals belonging to the late celebrated M. Hedlinger, and now in the possession of a near relative.

stranger unsheathed in those solitudes on which the name of liberty has conferred such enviable distinction.

The whole of this canton, like that of Uri, is devoted, with but very trifling exceptions, to pasture and the breeding of cattle—the last much superior to those of the neighbouring districts. The higher grounds abound in excellent summer grazing for the herds and flocks, while the lower afford ample supplies of meadow hay for their winter provender. Latterly, too, the art of cotton-spinning and, we believe, lace-making have been introduced, whereby a fresh source of domestic industry has been thrown open, and consequently a fresh demand for foreign commodity established. These and similar innovations, however conducive to the growth of public wealth, are, nevertheless, but too often prejudicial to primitive manners; and it becomes more and more apparent, that wherever manufactures have been successfully established, the simplicity of pastoral life, and the spirit of independence, gradually begin to lose their hold—or, if they survive the introduction of the new system, it is only by retiring to those more inaccessible points where the gains of modern art are forgotten in the contemplation of nature, and the real wants of life obviated by the frugal produce of the seasons. Far, however, from any attempt to depreciate the benefits which accrue from national manufactures, as employed in other countries, we only speak of the incongruity which, in situations like the present, follows the adoption of modern inventions, when the lofty spirit which hitherto could dream of nothing but liberty, and scarcely breathe, unless under the fresh breeze of the Alps, is chained down at last to the labours of a loom. A true Schwyzzer at the spindle, looks like an Achilles at the distaff.

It is certain, however, that what has produced an additional income, has also conjured up many additional wants, which, in the simplicity of past years, were unknown; and that what has enabled them to gratify these wants, has not thereby added to their happiness—but, on the contrary, by opening a new field of enjoyment, has given them a disrelish for the homely fare and primitive habits of their forefathers. As to the comparative happiness, or, more properly speaking, contentment, between the industrious citizen and the pastoral tenant of the mountains, there is no question that, in general, the latter has the advantage; and, supplied with the mere necessities of life, feels none of those pangs which ambition, or the prosperity of a more successful rival can inflict, and cause even abundance to pall on the appetite.

“I was awakened one morning at La Grave,” says a late excellent préfet of the High Alps,* “by a tremendous noise, as if the mountain, by some natural

convulsion, had been split asunder; and, running to my window, perceived an avalanche, preceded with the usual phenomena of vast clouds of snow, descending with awful impetuosity into an intervening chasm, where it disappeared. Shortly after, I was accosted by an ecclesiastic who had just descended from a small hamlet, which looked like an eagle's nest planted on the very apex of an isolated precipice:—"What can I have done," he began, "to offend the Bishop, that he should send me hence into a country which, although he assures me is very good, I nevertheless shall find to be hideous and insufferable? 'Here I want for nothing; my parishioners, indeed, are poor, but they pay me in forage; I have a good cow-house,* where, in my hed raised on a platform, I feel a genial temperature; I have two cows, that supply me with milk, butter, and cheese; and, by means of their manure, dried in the sun, I am supplied with all the fuel necessary for my cookery; the few fleeces of my sheep, spun and prepared by my housekeeper, suffice for every purpose of clothing. Grant me, therefore, the favour of your interest with the Bishop, that I may be permitted to continue where I am, and I shall never cease to pray for you every day that it shall please God to add to my life.' I did not fail," continues the worthy préfet, "to bring the case before the Bishop, and having obtained the *favour* so earnestly desired, the worthy *curé* loaded me with blessings!"

Who, after a fact of this description, but must conclude that happiness is as much a result of the absence, as of the abundance of the good things of this life? And who that pines after its vain superfluities, but may learn moderation and contentment from the curate of La Grave?—But to return to our subject.

From the town of Schwyz, a very short walk brings us to the borders of Lowerz—a small but beautiful lake, enclosed by scenery pastoral in its most poetical acceptation, and embodying one of the most delicious scenes imaginable. The islet of Schwanau, which appears to float on its surface, contributes not a little to heighten the romance of the picture, and the stranger who proceeds along the valley is everywhere met by fascinating objects, which, seen in a fine afternoon in summer, offer the richest materials for the construction of an Alpine paradise. On the left, skirting the lake, is the little community of Gersau, now annexed to Schwytz,† but formerly a republic of itself, and the

* Such, the reader is aware, is the substitute for fuel, and such the luxury of a warm bedchamber, in many parts of the Alps!

† There is a tradition among the Swiss of these cantons, that they are descended from the ancient Scandinavians, among whom, in a remote age, there arose so grievous a famine, that it was determined, in an assembly of the nation, that every tenth man and his family should quit the country, and seek a new possession. Six thousand, chosen by lot, thus emigrated at once from the North. They prayed to God to conduct them to a land like their own, where they might dwell in freedom and quiet, finding food for their

most diminutive, probably, that ever bore the ensigns of an independent sovereignty. It seems to have been no less remarkable for the purity of its moral constitution; for, during a political existence of four hundred years, no crime, it is affirmed, ever disgraced its annals. In this beautiful and retired spot, nature at first had lavished her gifts with no partial hand; but man, sensible of the blessing it afforded him as an asylum from the storms of life, has improved it by unwearied industry, till the original *debris* has been converted into gardens and meadows, enlivened by cheerful cottages and orchards of luxuriant and productive growth.

In the midst of this beautiful scenery, however, and while enjoying the balmy freshness of the atmosphere, and the fruits and flowers and luxuriant shade which minister so sweetly to the sense, the remembrance of Goldau comes back on the mind with double force! We seem to hear, as we advance, the voice of one who addresses us from the tomb, and tells us that they on whom yonder mountain was piled invite us to their untimely sepulchre, that we may observe the small space that intervenes between prosperity and despair—between the highest point of health and hope, and the nearest to that of annihilation. “What sorrow could equal their sorrow!” “Each” went forth, as he vainly thought, “to his work and to his labour until the evening”—the cattle were driven a-field, and flocks and shepherds sprinkled the rich pastures on the mountain’s brow as heretofore, while peace and health and prosperity gladdened the industrious population at its feet. The voice of destruction came upon them in a moment of unsuspecting security: and in the next, every vestige of the place and the people—their flocks, and herds, and produce, and all that cheers the eye or gladdens the heart—all the ties of social existence—the love that warmed and sweetened the domestic hearth—those that had just quitted the altar, and those that lingered there—the mother, while she yet blessed her new-born child—the bridegroom and the bride—the betrothed—they who were to have been married on the morrow—all were swept away in one promiscuous ruin, and precipitated into the depths of the earth.

A few particulars of this catastrophe, such as we have been able to collect on the spot, and among those who were eye-witnesses, may be here introduced for the sake of those to whom the fall of the Rossberg is but partially known.

families and pasture for their cattle. God (says the tradition) led them to a valley among the Alps, where they cleared away the forests, built the town of Schwyz, and afterwards peopled and cultivated the cantons of Underwalden.

“To the vale of Switz they came soon their meliorating toil

Gave the forests to the flame, and their ashes to the soil.”—MONTGOMERY.

During the summer of 1806, which had been preceded by a very snowy winter, an unusual quantity of rain had fallen; and on the first and second of September the showers continued without intermission. New crevices, as observed in the Conto alp under very similar circumstances,* were observed in the flank of the Rossberg,† and deep, confused, rumbling noises, attended by a discharge of stones, seemed to predict some internal convulsion, but which, unfortunately, was little attended to. At length, about two o'clock in the afternoon of the second of September, a black cloud, following the track of an immense rock which had been hurled from its perch, attracted observation, and seemed, indeed, the herald of the approaching calamity. At the lower part of the mountain, the ground appeared as if pressed down from above, and when a stick or spade was thrust into it, moved of itself. Struck at these appearances, a man, who was digging in his garden at the time, took alarm and fled from the place: almost immediately thereafter a fissure, greatly superior in dimensions to the others, and which seemed every instant widening into a chasm, succeeded: the natural springs were suddenly dried up; the pine-trees were violently agitated and twisted to and fro; while every thing that had wings flew away screaming with terror. - At five o'clock the indications of some fearful catastrophe became more defined, and the whole mountain, putting itself in motion, appeared to be gliding slowly down into the valley.

In the mean time, an old man, who is said to have often foretold some calamity of this nature, was sitting in his cottage quietly smoking his pipe, when a young man running past, hastily directed his attention to the Rossberg, and told him that it was already in the act of falling. Not however disposed to believe even what he himself had predicted, he merely looked on, and then returning to his seat, observed that he "had still time to fill another pipe." The young man who had warned him, still continuing his flight, was thrown down several times, and with great difficulty effected his escape. On looking back he saw the house suddenly carried away.

Another inhabitant, justly alarmed at the danger, hastily snatched up two of his children and ran off, calling at the same time to his wife to follow with the third: but she, with a mother's feelings, thinking nothing, was saved

* See our account of the destruction of *Pizrs*, in a former page of this work.

† The Rossberg, between three and four thousand feet high, is composed of parallel strata of pudding-stone (*conglomerata*), dipping south-east at an angle of twenty-five or thirty degrees, and separated by thin layers of argillaceous earth, and which, by the introduction of water, is apt to be converted into viscous mud, and thus the superincumbent strata of rock were loosened and precipitated along this slippery inclination—in the same manner as we observe the snow, when loosened by the sun or a thaw, slide from a slate roof. The fallen rocks consist of rounded fragments, some of them three or four feet in diameter, and of all formations, from the oldest to the latest.

while one was exposed, ran in to secure the fourth, Marianne, with whom the maid servant, Francesca Ulrich, was at the same instant crossing the floor. In a moment, as the latter afterwards described it, the house seemed to be torn from its foundations, and spun round like a top. "I was sometimes," she said, "on my head sometimes on my feet, in total darkness, and forcibly separated from the child. When this violent whirling motion subsided, she found herself wedged in on all sides, her head downwards, much bruised, suffering extreme pain, and impressed with the belief that she was buried deep in the earth, and must there perish by a lingering death. Disengaging her right hand with much difficulty, and wiping the blood from her eyes, she heard the faint moans of Marianne, and called to her by name, the child, in answer, said that she was held down on her back, and closely entangled among stones and bushes, but that her hands were free, and she could perceive a glimmering light, and the appearance of something green—adding, "Will not some one come soon to take us out?" "No," said Francesca, "it is the day of judgment—none are left to help us' but when released by death we shall be happy in heaven." They then prayed together, when suddenly Francesca's ear caught the sound of a bell, which she knew to be that of Steinenberg. Shortly after, she heard the hour of *seven* slowly struck in another village, and persuading herself that there was still something living, endeavoured to cheer her little fellow prisoner, who was at first clamorous for something to eat, but soon became fainter and quiet, and at length seemingly dropt into a profound sleep.

Francesca, still in the same painful position, and imbedded in wet earth, felt a cold freezing sensation creeping over her whole frame. At last, after severe and repeated struggles, she succeeded in disengaging her limbs, and to this circumstance she attributed her life. Many hours had thus crept slowly away under these most painful circumstances, when the voice of Marianne was again heard, but crying bitterly from the effects of cold and hunger. All this time the distracted father, who had saved himself and two children, as if by miracle, had continued wandering about, till at day break he discovered the ruins of his house, and looking eagerly around him for some fatal relic of the disaster, observed a human foot projecting from the earth, and there found his unhappy wife, who had perished with the child in her arms. His cries of grief and despair, as he laboured to disengage the body from the mass of ruins in which it was buried, were heard and answered by Marianne—a voice of consolation in the deepest sorrow!

After a moment's pause at this unexpected salutation, his energies were

doubled, the earth was removed, and his little daughter raised, literally from the grave, but with one thigh broken, and otherwise bruised and hurt. Immediate search for Francesca followed, but the difficulty was increased by her making no answer to the voices that now strove to encourage her. At length, however, her rescue was also effected, but she was in so weakened a state, that her life was despaired of. She was blind for several days, and remained ever after subject to convulsive fits of terror.

The unhappy inmates of this family had been carried about fifteen hundred feet from the spot which the house had occupied; but whether *with* or without the latter remains uncertain. In another part of this vast sepulchre, a child two years old, lying on its mattress on the mud, was found unhurt, but without any vestige of the house from which it had been separated. Several other extraordinary instances of similar escape are remembered—a woman and her child were carried down into the valley, in the cabin they inhabited, and escaped unhurt. A house and its inmates were swept into the lake, but saved in consequence of the upper part of the tenement, which was of wood, having separated from the under, and continued floating, like an ark in the deluge, till safely relieved of its freight.

So vast and sudden was the rush of earth and stones into the beautiful lake of Lowerz, just noticed, that one end of it, though several miles distant from the scene, was filled up; while the displaced mass of water—driven like a tempest completely over the island of Schwanau, and raised seventy feet above the usual level—overwhelmed the opposite shore, and in its return swept off several houses with their inhabitants. The chapel of Olten, a wooden structure, was found half a league from its original station; and many large blocks of stone had completely changed their situations. The villages completely overwhelmed by this awful inundation were Goldau, Busingen, Upper and Under Röthen, and a portion of Lowerz; but the first, being the largest in the valley of Art, has been used as applying to the whole.

On the same day, a party on a pleasure excursion, consisting of eleven persons, belonging to families of distinction in Berne, arrived in the valley of Art, and set off on foot to ascend the Righi. Seven of the company, being considerably in advance of the other four, were seen to enter the village of Goldau at the very instant that Mr. Jenner, who was with those behind, directed their attention to the summit of the Rossberg, at the distance of four miles, where he observed some strange commotions. While using a telescope to ascertain the fact, and entering into conversation with some strangers who had just come up, a sudden flight of stones, like cannon-balls,

was projected over their heads with immense velocity * A cloud of dust rose thick over the valley—hollow and appalling thunders burst fitfully from the gulf that now stretched between them and the mountain—and struck with consternation at the awful spectacle, all fled precipitately from the spot.

As soon as the darkness which had veiled the surrounding objects began to clear away, and the crashing commotions to subside, such a scene of desolation and death, rising out of life, beauty, and fertility, met their agonized senses, as it is hardly possible to conceive, much less to describe The village of Goldau had disappeared, a vast mass of earth, and rocks, and shattered trees, and rubbish, and the wreck of human habitations—all ground down and pounded, so to speak, into a perfect chaos—occupied the whole valley, to the depth of a hundred feet All efforts to discover any trace of the late inhabitants, or the ill fated strangers who had entered the doomed hamlet but a few minutes before, proved entirely abortive Of the unhappy four who had been separated from their companions, and saved in a manner so extraordinary, one, M de Diesbach, had to lament the loss of a beloved wife, to whom he had been married but a few days, another, that of a son, and a third, that of two pupils, youths of great promise, with whom he had been travelling during the vacation Of Goldau, nothing was left but the bell which hung in its steeple, and which was found about a mile off.

By this overwhelming calamity, four hundred and fifty seven individuals perished by a sudden, and in many instances, it is feared, a lingering death Fourteen alone were rescued from beneath the deluge of rocks, and of the surviving population, seventy four had owed their safety to flight, but many were severely wounded, and the whole population, now reduced to three hundred and fifty, having thus lost their *all*, were reduced to a state of the deepest misery and destitution, and the happy valley of Goldau transformed in one brief hour to a Golgotha

The peasants, inhabiting the opposite flank of the Righi, beheld the terrible work of destruction in all its stages, and fully impressed with the belief that doomsday and the work of annihilation had begun, expected that the fall of the Righi would immediately succeed †

* Several of these masses of rock were thrown over the highest pines of the Fellenbogen, on the slope of the Righi.

† The inhabitants of this valley were particularly distinguished throughout the canton for their fine persons, firm and independent spirit kindly dispositions cheerful and contented tempers and exemplary morals. Here says Dr Zay * were to be found simplicity good nature, and all the primitive virtues of pastoral life Their food was simple as their manners milk and fruit were their ordinary diet meat, and even bread, were considered as luxuries among them They lived, literally as affectionate members

The situation of this valley offers the best facilities possible for geological observation being placed in the centre of the highest mountains of *nagel-flue* (sandstone conglomerate) yet known. The Righi, the Ruffi, and the Steinerberg, are entirely composed of this stone. Those who wish to observe the terrible results of the *éboulement* just described, could not select a better point than at Art, which is only fifteen minutes' walk from the western extremity of that still frightful chaos. The whole layers of rocks appear to have fallen in four principal directions, so that their ruins still present four distinct and vast embankments of rubbish. Many huge fragments, as already stated, were driven across the valley and up the side of the Righi, as high as the small plain called Fellenhogen; several magnificent beech-trees were torn up by the roots, and snapt in pieces; and various other phenomena, still higher, bore frightful testimony to the same devastating scourge. Along the whole line of convulsion we observe enormous blocks of conglomerate rising out of the general mass—some of these sixty-seven feet long, by forty-seven feet broad, and eighteen high. From the Rossherg alooe, entire forests were uprooted, swept down, and buried in the ruins.* The breadth of the layers was from a thousand feet upwards, their depth a hundred feet, and their length about three miles.

By the side of the road a chapel and an ion have been erected for several years past; and cottages, or rather hovels, scattered thinly over the leafless waste, remind us of countries where rivers of lava, once subsided, are again—and long before they are cooled—sprinkled with human habitations. But many ages must elapse before the industry of man can extract one poor harvest from this valley of death. The anniversary of this fearful catastrophe, the second of September, is still observed in the district as a day of prayer and humiliation.

Such a visitation, it is greatly to be feared, will not be the last. General Pfyster, it is said, from his intimate knowledge of its geological structure, had often expressed his apprehensions of a similar result; and none who now view

of one and the same family, united by the mutual ties of domestic life. Their dairies were left open to the traveller, who entered and refreshed himself at pleasure, leaving such compensation behind him as his means or inclination prompted. Four hundred and twenty-three head of cattle were also lost; and the damage sustained in substance alone was estimated at two millions of florins, equal to nearly 160,000*l.*—an immense sum for this country. The best account of this catastrophe is that by Dr. Züry, published at Zurich in 1807.

* It seems worth remark while adverting to this particular, that at Brévine, in the mountains of Neuchâtel, according to Dr. Ubel, there is a coal mine (*charbon de terre végétal*, or *braunkohlen*) now worked, and which originates in the forests that were sunk there during an earthquake which happened on the 13th of September, 1356, and destroyed great part of the city of Bâle, besides committing dreadful ravages along the Jura.—Dr. Macculloch has made some excellent experiments on the conversion of vegetable matter into mineral coal. A process like the present, however, is a painful method of providing *charriage* for posterity.

the inclined plane of the Ruffiberg, from which such destruction has already fallen upon the valley, but must fear that the last act of that awful drama is yet to come! Still, like the rude deity of desolation, the mountain seems to contemplate with invidious eye the beauty and fertility which yet remain couched at his feet; and like some gigantic monster, lulled in deceitful repose, seems only to wait for some favourable moment to crush and overwhelm what the last fearful deluge had spared. Well may those who hold their lives and their lands upon such tenure look up and exclaim—

" PRAISE BE TO THEE !

We need thy care that 'neath the mountain's cliff
Lodge by the storm, and cannot lift our eyes,
But piles of rocks, and everlasting snows,
O'erhanging us, remind us of thy mercy !"

Taking leave of this scene, to which we have devoted as much space as the deep and permanent interest of the subject seemed to demand, we now return to Steinen, where a small chapel marks the ancient abode of Stauffacher; and thence proceed, through Saltel, on our route to Einsiedeln. But before reaching this—the most renowned place of pilgrimage in modern times—we pass over several interesting localities: on our left are the small lake of Egger, and the plain of Morgarten—the latter twice famous as a battle-field; first, in the fourteenth century, when a decisive victory was gained over the Austrians; and latterly, on the second of May, 1798, when a sanguinary conflict took place between the patriots and French troops, in which the former had once more the advantage. The first of these battles was the most important that the Swiss ever gained in their struggle for liberty, and was the basis of all their future glory. What is singular is, that in both engagements their leader was of the same name and family of *Reding*.

The lake of Egger is about a league in length by one half in breadth. It is of great depth, and well stocked with fish; and the upper and lower valleys by which it is enclosed, present a series of beautiful meadow pastures, inhabited by a people who, from time immemorial, have been distinguished for their physical as well as moral qualities, heroic stature, patriotic sentiments, and primitive simplicity.

The southern borders of the lake are mountainous, yet highly cultivated, and enlivened by numerous habitations. On the south, the Ruffiberg and Kaiserstock, the former near five thousand feet in height, give limits to the territory,

* *William Tell*, by SHERIDAN KNOWLES—Seth Stephenson's "Continental Sketches."

and throw their shadows across the bright waters of the lake. Between the latter of these Alps and Morgarten the ground falls considerably, and the scene of the battle extends before us, in which, as already stated, the Austrian army sustained a signal defeat.

In 1315, while greatly incensed against the people of the three cantons for their prompt submission to the emperor Louis of Bavaria instead of his brother, Frederick of Austria, Duke Leopold resolved to invade the cantons once more, and by one definite stroke put a check to the insolence, as it was termed, of these contemptible peasants. For this expedition every thing was prepared with more than ordinary care; and, supported by a numerous retinue of chivalry, Leopold set his army in motion, and already, by anticipation, saw it crowned with laurel. Comte Otto at the same time advanced with four thousand men against Obwalden; while upwards of a thousand more, furnished by the local authorities of Willisau, Wolhausen, and Lucerne, laid their plans for the attack of Unterwalden from the lake. With all his measures cautiously matured, the duke, placing himself at the head of a numerous and well-appointed army, took up his station on Morgarten; and, amongst his warlike supplies, did not omit an ample provision of hempen ropes for the execution of his prisoners.

The confederates, who had mustered to the number of thirteen hundred men, occupied the heights near the Einsiedeln confine. The patriots from Schwyz had been reinforced by four hundred men from Uri, three hundred from Unterwalden, and about fifty others who, for certain delinquencies of a less aggravated nature, had been banished from Schwyz, and now implored permission to earn their recall by taking part in the approaching conflict for freedom.

With the intention of dislodging this diminutive force, the Austrian horsemen commenced their march under a bright morning sun on the eighteenth of November. But while they calculated only on the spoils which awaited them, a tremendous shout from the confederates, as they made a simultaneous rush upon the invading line, threw the Austrians into disorder, while fragments of rocks, precipitated from the beetling cliffs above, did terrible execution on the enemy's rear, and threw their cavalry into complete disorder.

Still, however, they endeavoured to advance; for to retreat, or to remain stationary, were alike impossible. Their long winding files occupied many circles of the mountain road. On their right was the lake, offering a ready gulf for their 'glory'; on their left was the marsh; above them were rocks, which were already descending like avalanches: so that beset at all points by dangers in their most appalling shape, and against which neither strength, nor address, nor personal valour could offer the least protection, they were completely wedged in,

and all retreat cut off, except over the prostrate bodies of their comrades. The heavy cavalry at length made a dead halt—further advance was impossible—their ranks were broken—their steeds, galled and maddened by the falling of the rocks and trees, plunged with their steel clad riders into the lake or marsh, or, driven furiously backward, bore down the advancing infantry, and thus carried destruction into their own ranks.

At the same instant, with well timed impetuosity, the confederates sprang from their concealment, and seconding the effects of the panic by those weapons, the mere sight of which inspired terror, plunged into the *melee*. Henry of Ospendal, and the sons of the patriarch Reding who had planned the attack, cheered forward with the men of Schwyz, and, in the midst of shouts and slaughter, drove the invaders into a narrow defile by the lake, where the flower of the Austrian nobility sank beneath the halberds and iron pointed clubs of the shepherds. With the exception of fifty Zurichers, and other subsidies furnished to the duke from Zug and Winterthur, most of whom refused quarter, and fell with arms in their hands, the whole army took to flight. William Tell and Walter Furst are reported among the victorious combatants of the day. Leopold himself escaped with difficulty to Winterthur, and with the bitter reflection, that fortitude is more available than force, and that Austrian ropes were useless till the 'Swiss rebels' were caught.*

After this triumphant achievement, the confederates renewed in solemn form their ancient bond of union, as expressed in the comprehensive motto—

ONE FOR ALL, AND ALL FOR ONE! .

The Abbey of EINSIEDELN, as a place of pilgrimage, is more frequented probably, than any similar establishment in Christendom. So far from diminishing in the influx of devotees, as most other sanctuaries have done, its votaries have latterly increased both in number and respectability, and the shrine of *Notre Dame-des Hermites* still calls her sons and daughters from afar, as in the Church's most palmy hour. The flourishing existence of such a place in

* Besides the advantages which the Swiss derived from the nature of this defile it is recorded that they were still further seconded by fortuitous floods from the lake which (looked upon at the time as a special interposition of Providence in their favour) contracting the pass rendered the march more critical on the part of the Austrians and left them for marshalling the troops but a narrow ridge from which a declivity on either side sloped into the lake or the morass. To these circumstances and the embarrassing nature of the soil the victory of thirteen hundred over twenty thousand is partly to be ascribed—a victory which has not unsparingly been compared to that of Marathon. On the spot a chapel erected over the ashes of the Swiss heroes and dedicated to St. James, commemorates the triumph and for which in imitation of that at Thermopylae the following inscription has been suggested: STRANGER! TELL THE SWISS THAT HERE WE DIED IN DEFENCE OF THE LAWS OF OUR COUNTRY.

the present day seems almost as great a miracle as any recorded in the chronicles of the church.

The abbey and its dependent bourg occupy a very romantic and pleasing situation in the valley of the Sil; and although three thousand feet above the sea, possess many attractions to the summer tourist—particularly at the celebration of the grand fête on the 14th of September. The abbey itself covers a small eminence, behind which a pine-forest rises into a bold amphitheatre, and gives fine relief to the picture. Its territory comprises an extensive parish, with six chapelries, and about six thousand inhabitants. The town is composed chiefly of inns for the entertainment of pilgrims, and inhabited by such artisans as derive, in the manufacture of trinkets, images, log-books, &c. immediate encouragement from the same votaries, who, on a recent occasion, mustered here to the number of twenty thousand. Little more than a century ago, and for the seventh time since its foundation, the convent was entirely rebuilt, and upon the whole offers a very striking, if not perfect, specimen of Italian architecture. The church, which occupies the centre, although encumbered internally with ornamental work, presents a noble aspect, and at first sight makes a very strong impression. At the entrance, in a black marble chapel, newly constructed, a sacred image of the Virgin in wood—the palladium of the abbey—receives the homage of the faithful. She is most sumptuously attired in gold, jewels, and brocade, and, like other queens, is beset by a crowd of obsequious flatterers from morning till night. This image, it is said, was presented to the founder, Meinrad the hermit, by the Princess Hildegard, abbess of Zurich, and narrowly escaped the hands of the French soldiery in 1798, when the abbey and town were laid under heavy contributions, and even the holy tribune, in which the wooden Virgin had been installed for ages, desecrated and demolished.

The abbey contains a good library, and, among other recent additions, a set of philosophical apparatus, and a cabinet of minerals. Equally attentive to the wants of the time, and in strict observance of the rules by which it is governed, this establishment, since the revolution, has shewn its zeal for the interests of learning by opening, under the immediate sanction of the prince-bishop, public schools, in which the more useful branches of science are taught gratuitously. The 14th of September is the anniversary on which all the faithful within reach, and many from distant countries, repair to Einsiedeln; and it is remarkable with what perfect order and sobriety the movements of this heterogeneous multitude are directed. On one occasion, while we were spending September near the lake of Zurich, for several days previously to the great fête;

troops of pilgrims continued to pour in from the Rhenish provinces and various parts of Germany. One venerable matron, at the extraordinary age of one hundred and eight, had come from the remotest corner of Normandy in performance of a vow, and like the others had walked every step of the way. We generally heard their vesper hymn long before they came in sight, and the effect, as it rose and faded on the ear in a still autumnal evening, was soothing and impressive. The various costumes, features, complexion, and language, which met us in the passing groups, were no less striking, but however discordant in outward appearance, their voices and hearts seemed in unison, and one sole principle appeared to direct and regulate the entire mass. Many looked sickly and exhausted, long fasts and continued fatigue had undermined that very health they had hoped to re-establish by a pilgrimage to Einsiedeln, and to many that pilgrimage was the last. Others in the most apparent health and vigour, young men and women, formed the majority, and it seemed difficult to imagine what they had to ask of our Lady. But all had something which could only be told at the shrine. Vows made in the hour of sickness or threatened calamity, gratitude for timely deliverance, the desire of some real or imaginary good, the voice of upbraiding conscience, the suggestions of Satan, or, it might be, the secret manifestations of heaven, the indulgence of some favourite sin, or absolution from some tormenting guilt—every passion which elevates or debases the human character had here its representative, and sued for indulgence or remission.

Every canton of Switzerland too had here its deputies—each distinguished by the costume of the district, the colours and fashioning of which gave relief and vivacity to the picture. The head dresses of the women, however, afforded the greatest and most striking variety, and in mutual contrast became doubly effective. Some, with the ancient *hodkin*, shaped like a dart passing through the hair, the head in the form of a diamond, and studded with glittering stones, others with a coiffure made of platted and stiffened lace, and placed upon the head upright like a cock's comb or a large fan, some with a broad circular piece of straw, placed flat upon the head, with wreaths of flowers tastefully disposed in the centre, others with the hair merely platted, with an infinity of beads and other ornaments interwoven in it. Almost all the old women carried staffs, and most of the young red umbrellas. It was by no means of the miserably poor that the pilgrims consisted,* many were of the middling classes, and some even of the upper ranks, and on the conclusion of the religious

* *Continued*.—In 1814 the number of pilgrims amounted to 114 000 in 1821 to the same in 1822, to 132 000 in 1824 to 150 000 in 1825 to 162 000 in 1828 to 176 000!

services, not a few were observed to leave the scene of humiliation in their own carriages.

Many of the poorer pilgrims, on these occasions, are the bearers of offerings from others; for those who would benefit by the virtues of the sacred image, yet are prevented by temporal concerns from joining the pilgrimage, select a representative, to whom is confided, along with the means of purchase, the particular favour for which they are to petition the Virgin. "I heard of a woman," says Mr. Conway, "whose reputation for sanctity was so great in the neighbourhood, that she had obtained the lucrative appointment of representative '*auprès de la Sainte Vierge d'Einsiedeln*,' for all the wealthy people in the commune, and that she made four quarterly pilgrimages to the shrine every year on their account."

The large open square in front of the convent is adorned with two semi-circular porticos, and furnished with shops; in the centre a handsome fountain of black native marble combines ornament and utility, and the whole building, with all its sacred purposes and secular appendages, is well calculated to make a lasting impression upon strangers, and may be justly considered as the Compostello of modern times.

Zuinglius, it will be remembered, was curate of Einsiedeln, and there imbibed from the study of the Scriptures those principles which were so fully developed in his subsequent career. The present abbot is said to have had the honour of declining, on more than one occasion, the episcopal dignity, by which His Holiness, in consideration of important services rendered to the Church, was desirous to testify his approbation. The revenues of this abbey are said, and with good reason, to be enormous, but liberally administered.

Continuing our route across Mount Etzel, we reach the lake of Zurich—a distance of about five leagues—in three hours. The summit of Mount Etzel, where there is a good inn, commands one of the finest views in Switzerland: on the north are the lake of Zurich, in its full extent, and the valley of the Limmat, as far as Baden—the valley of Glatt—the lakes of Gryfensee and Pfaffikon; between the chain of the lower range of the Forka and that of Rhinsberg, the whole north division of Switzerland, and as far as the centre of Swabia. On the north-east, nearly opposite the Etzel, is the Almann chain, which divides the canton of Zurich from Tockenbourg and Appenzel, the highest points of which are called Hörli and Schnehelhorn. On the east these mountains assume the appearance of condensed groups. On the south-east are the mountains of the Schennis and Rothenberg, between which the Linth and the Muz make their escape—the first from the canton of Glaris, and the

second from the lake of Wallenstadt—and after meandering along the valley, unite at Ziegelbrücke, and pursue their course, under the name of Lindmieg, across the plains of Goster, Uznach, and Mark, till lost in the upper part of the lake of Zurich. On the south the Silthal and the groups of mountains, especially the Glärnisch, enclosing the Waggithal, in the canton of Glaris. On the south-west the Alpthal, in which are situated Einsiedeln, Schwyzerhaken, the Ruffi, and Righi. On the west, close to Mount Etzel, the Hohe-Rhone, or Dreyländerstein, covered with vast forests, and rising, as the name implies, over the three cantons of Zurich, Zug, and Schwyz. The view is in all respects a panorama of the most wild and varied description, and will delight every tourist who quits, or enters, the canton of Schwyz by Mount Etzel—the great avenue of approach to Einsiedeln, and in the summer season generally thronged with pilgrims.

The situation of Lachen, planted at the foot of the richly variegated hills that border the upper lake of Zurich, is highly picturesque, and enhanced by the vicinity of Rapperschwyl and its bridge—the latter of such dimensions as to take precedence of every other in Europe. Its length is four thousand eight hundred feet, with a uniform breadth of four yards, and resting upon a hundred and eighty-eight rows of stakes; but as it has no balustrade, and the transverse planks being without fastening, it is usual to walk, although carriages, with horses accustomed to the peculiar echoes of the wooden structure, may be driven across with perfect safety. It was originally constructed in 1358 by Leopold of Austria, on his taking possession of the newly purchased territory of old Rapperschwyl and the Mark. The town itself is well deserving of a visit; and from its elevated position, and the flanking towers by which it is fortified, is highly picturesque from whatever point it is viewed. But the object on which the eye reposes with peculiar satisfaction is the island of Ufenau, or Huttensgrab,* about half a league from Rapperschwyl, one from Richterschwyl, on the left bank, and nearly equidistant from either shore. It is covered with richly grouped woods and

* The island takes its name from *Ulric de Hutten*, a gentleman of family, and a distinguished writer in defence of Luther and the cause of reformation. What especially roused his indignation against the gross abuses of the age, and the barbarities practised by petty sovereigns with open impunity, was the murder of his cousin, by *Ulric, Duke of Wirtemberg*, who was enamoured of his wife and to make way for the indulgence of his guilty passion, re-enacted the tragedy of *David and Uriah*. After having employed both sword and pen with great success, and having generously given up the family estate in Franconia to his brothers, enjoining them at the same time to hold no correspondence with him, lest they should be involved in his persecution, Hutten retired from the court of *Charles V* to this little island, where he died and was buried in 1533. His Latin poems, published the same year at *Frankfort*, are full of noble sentiment, pungent satire, and ardent zeal for the moral advancement of his countrymen. The island is now the property of a gentleman of Rapperschwyl.—See APPENDIX.

verdant meadows, whose mingling foliage and wild flowers—the whole enhanced many degrees by the bright lake in which it appears to float, and the enchanting scenery of which it is the very centre—give it all those charms with which the imagination invests the realms of fairy-land. It may be compared, and without exaggeration, to a rich gem enclosed in a most beautiful setting—at once reflecting and reflected by every thing around.

The road, as we return to Lachen and continue to advance, winds along picturesque acclivities, with the lake of Zurich on our left, and the Alps of Glaris on our right. The houses skirting our route are all built of wood; and to protect them against the sudden hurricanes to which these valleys are subject, have beams of timber fastened, by way of ballast, along the tiled roofs, and secured by large stones; for without this precaution not a habitation would be left covered. Leaving the picturesque and the beautiful, we entered once more the "*patria nimborum*"—regions pregnant with boisterous winds—while the fleecy clouds that met us at the entrance of the valley of Glaris, condensed, and gathering over head, seemed as if concentrating their strength for some fearful display of Alpine phenomena. The distant peaks glanced at brief intervals through the vapour—alternately lost and reflected in the deep and shrouding mantle with which they were covered. Along the precipices, driven by a fierce wind, the dilating vapour fled rapidly, and partially disappeared, as if self-exhausted. Ridges of pine hung suspended in midway air; the foaming descent of impetuous cataracts; piles of rock, in such fearful inclination as to appear in the act of falling, but from whose very toppling verge, nevertheless, the peasant's cabin stood proudly confident; glimpses of men and cattle, and the occupations of pastoral life, suddenly caught the eye, and were again as suddenly shut out by some turn in the road, or the intervention of mountain mists. At length an ominous stillness took possession of the atmosphere, and, like a vast assembly hushed in anticipation of some mighty speaker, nature seemed to listen with awed attention to the deepening voice that rolled in fearful cadence along her dreary solitudes. The clouds hung motionless over head, and the winds, checked in sound and speed, had retired from the scene. The torrent alone rushed fearfully on the ear; while the day, sobered into twilight, held doubtful empire, and at length shrunk from the invading night. The distant sounds, gradually approaching the earth, deepened into thunder and roused every dormant echo; the lightnings, like heralds announcing the direction of the thunderbolt, flashed in wild coruscations through the darkling hemisphere, and the crash and continuous roll of the thunder gave full confirmation to the storm. To describe its appearance when the storm had reached its climax would be occupying too much

of the reader's time, and verging too much on what has been already stated in another part of this work; but to those who judge of a storm in the Alps of Glaris by the evidence of storms in the plain, we need hardly say that the comparison is totally inadequate. In the former, the thunder in its intensity is appalling; abetted by the rocks and caverns and ravines, the reverberation is inconceivably grand, and to the stranger gives an idea as if the mountains were thrown into violent contact, and their granite masses crashing and crumbling in the mutual shock.

Glaris is a vast natural fastness, to which there is but one really practicable entrance, and on this account it is less frequented—though not less interesting—than most of the other cantons. It consists of one principal valley, traversed by the Linth, and ramifying into three others of much smaller dimensions. Here, is an almost absolute seclusion from intercourse with the external world, the inhabitants live under their snowy ramparts in much of that primitive simplicity of manners, and frugal hardihood, which distinguished the fathers of the Swiss league. Their territory measures fifteen leagues in length, by seven in breadth; but the level of the valley seldom exceeds half a league, and scarcely one part in ten of the whole canton admits of cultivation. The inhabitants, amounting to twenty-six thousand, are divided into those of the Catholic and Reformed persuasions—the latter constituting at least three-fourths of the population, yet so well harmonized that the same chapel is used for both congregations—a gratifying proof of the free and fraternal spirit of toleration with which that great source of former persecution, religious schism, is here overlooked or forgotten. The council, also, notwithstanding the preponderating influence of the Protestants in numbers and property, is composed of equal proportions of the inhabitants—Catholic and Protestant, while their priests, ministers, and schoolmasters, are paid and provided for by government in a manner which does honour to its enlightened members.

Schools are established in every commune, and parents enjoined, under a penalty, to send their children to receive such instruction as may best fit them for their future trade or occupation. The masters of these schools are all paid by government, and, compared with the expense of living, much more liberally than either in Scotland or England.* Sunday schools are also opened in every

* The clergy are paid at the rate of 60*l.* to 65*l.* per annum, and the schoolmaster 30*l.* to 35*l.*, with good dwelling-houses, and other important considerations. The chief magistrate receives only 240 florins, 20*l.* per annum.

The only taxes are a poll-tax of sixpence, or four batzen, upon every individual arrived at the age of sixteen, and a property-tax of two batzen, or threepence, upon every 1000 florins. A person possessing 3000*l.* is considered very wealthy, and although the canton abounds in rich individuals, there is not one worth 8000*l.*—*Switzerland in 1830*

commune for the benefit of those who are otherwise employed during the week, and every means afforded for instruction, civil and religious, which the people can desire, or a paternal government devise, for their moral advancement. A singular law on the subject of inheritance is still in force, and, if we mistake not, peculiar to this canton, namely—that if any person, whose property has descended to him from his parents, die without children, his entire substance, to the exclusion of every other relation, reverts to the state. In this manner considerable accessions have been made to the public funds, and a salutary caution established for the consideration of all bachelors—yet no bachelor, of whatever maturity, can enter the bonds of matrimony, unless by special sanction from his father—a regulation which applies with equal force to the maiden—both are minors in the eye of the law so long as their parents are alive. Out of the first law, as may be imagined, immoral consequences have arisen, and to obviate these another severe enactment became necessary; by which, in every case of affiliation, the father is compelled to espouse the mother, or forfeit every right of citizenship. This is rigorously enforced, and the evil effects of the former law so far neutralized.

The poor are provided for, as in Scotland, by charitable donations collected every Sunday, when it is expected that every one of the hearers will contribute in proportion to his resources. The neglect of this duty on the part of any members of the congregation possessing the means, is visited with due reprehension, till they are shamed into liberality. A custom strictly similar was formerly observed in many country parishes in Scotland, where the clergyman himself has been known to address a reproof to the uncharitable individual from the pulpit.

The government of Glaris is a pure democracy, with the supreme authority vested in a general assembly of the people, which, with the landamman at its head, is held annually on the first Sunday of May. The executive power is entrusted to the *landrath*, composed of eighty members, including the landamman, the landstadthalters, or landholders, and sixty deputies. Glaris, according to the revised federal system of 1815, furnishes, in case of war, contingents of four hundred and eighty-two men, and three thousand six hundred and fifteen francs in money. The Protestant clergy are under the direction of a synod, which holds annual meetings.*

* The Protestants of Glaris are every year gaining strength, from the circumstance that intermarriages being freely tolerated—an advantage peculiar to Glaris—the children are all educated in the religion of the father; and parents, happily, are not permitted, from caprice or indolence, to prevent their children from receiving that education best suited to their prospects, and which, as we have stated, is defrayed by government.

Manufactures of cotton and woollen cloths are here in considerable activity, and find a ready sale in the Italian market, as well as in various parts of the confederacy. The Schahzeigher cheese, so long famous as the exclusive product of Glaris, forms a very important item in the public revenue. During summer, the pasturage is sufficient for eight thousand cows or upwards, and there is scarce a commune that does not possess from one hundred to four hundred goats. The soil, in the lower part of the valley, is rich and productive, wheat and vines are cultivated with tolerable success, though in small quantity, chestnut, cherry, and even peach trees thrive luxuriantly, and so powerful is the sun in the early spring months, that it is no uncommon thing to gather strawberries in the middle of April, and cherries by the end of May. The town of Glaris contains about four thousand inhabitants, and is chiefly supported by the manufactures already mentioned. The mills, where the cheese of the canton is prepared after its peculiar fashion, are worth visiting. A fine shady avenue leading to the village of Linneda crosses the Lanth by a bridge, constructed by the famous Gruhemann already mentioned in our notice of Reichenau. This village, which fifty years ago consisted of only a very few houses, is now a respectable *bourg*, and remarkable as the residence of those native mercantile adventurers who traverse, in the way of trade, every country in Europe, from Madrid to Moscow, and returning with their gains, enrich the place of their birth.

In ascending the valley of the Lanth, the characteristics of Alpine scenery present themselves in great variety. It is populous, fertile in pastures, and although completely overlooked, and shut in by mountains of snow, the rich vegetation with which it is carpeted contrasts beautifully with the lowering horrors in the midst of which the valley, gradually contracting, at length entirely disappears. The activities are studded over with pastoral cabins, and cows and goats browse together in friendly companionship. Great quantities of thyme and other flowering plants and shrubs are cultivated for the use of the bees, for the honey of Glaris is considered equal, at least, to that produced on the ancient Hyhla, or the modern Narbonne. The flavour is certainly fine, and, being much in request among strangers, it forms one of the principal exports.

Beyond Lanthal, the extreme village of the canton, the scenery becomes more and more savage in its aspect, the course of the stream more impetuous and swollen by cataracts, that dash in foam from the rocks, while patches of snow, in place of verdant pasture, and fragments of rock, piled in fearful imminence on either hand, denote the confines of eternal winter. At length, a deep and dismal gorge is all that remains of the beautiful Lanthal, through which the river, now a cataract, plunges with deafening roar, leaving but a precarious footing for the

traveller, and ploughing its channel deeper and deeper into the granite from which it springs. Here again, the hardihood of man is exemplified in the construction of the Pantenbrücke—one of the most extraordinary bridges in existence. It consists of a single arch, thrown across the chasm from brim to brim, beneath which the river is observed struggling and boiling at a depth of two hundred feet. The length of this bridge does not exceed twelve paces; from the centre the view comes at once in contact with the foaming stream; and in conjunction with the perfect solitude, silence, and desolation, which preside over the spot, offers one of the most impressive scenes that can be imagined. In the Via-Mala, tremendous as that pass assuredly is, there is still something to remind the traveller of his vicinity to the world; but here the solitude is absolute, and he feels himself alone with nature in one of her most appalling forms.*

The other two valleys are the Sernfthal and Clönthal—the latter of which, from historical interest, we shall briefly notice. After a rough and difficult ascent of two hours, we reach the foot of Mount Glärnisch, and having traversed the romantic hamlet of Riedern, and a covered bridge, we recommence the ascent at a little distance from the Löntsch, heard thundering and boiling at the bottom of a frightful gorge. All of a sudden—like the exit from the Via-Mala to the valley of Schams—an extraordinary transition is effected: the horror of the scene is instantly softened, and the eye greeted by one of the most delicious seclusions in the Alps—the bright mirror-like lake of Clönthal, with rich verdant banks, sprinkled with picturesque cottages, and shaded with luxuriant thickets of maple and birch trees—the whole, in summer at least, giving the idea of a pastoral Eden.

The footpath, winding westward and crossing the torrent, leads to the rich meadows of Teufen-winkel, watered by delicious fountains as far as the Glärnisch. Here an immense block of granite is inscribed with the name of GESSNER, and an appropriate eulogy from two of his justly admiring countrymen. A group of trees cast their foliage over the rock, cascades and torrents murmur all around, and no place could have been better selected for the purpose, or possessing more of the requisites for an appropriate monument to him who, as a poet and a painter, has descanted with such glowing language on the beauty of nature and the beneficence of the Deity.

Among the patriotic Swiss, Näfels, the village to which we now return, is a

* While noticing the height of Swiss bridges, it may not be out of place to mention that, in this particular, they are all exceeded by a Scotch bridge, that of Peaths, in Berwickshire, which is two hundred and forty feet high, by three hundred in length, and may take precedence of every other known.—See our *Work of Scotland Illustrated*.

place of pilgrimage—a second Morgarten, where the machinations of Austria were again defeated, and the strength of freemen put to a severe test—for in the same hour they had to contend with treason at home, and despotism abroad

In 1388, Wesen, at the foot of the lake of Wallenstadt, was in possession of Glaris, and governed with exemplary moderation. Still, however, the inhabitants, far from feeling that attachment to their Swiss conquerors which they professed, longed to be once more under Austrian sway, and in secret took measures to effect a reunion. In furtherance of this design they had succeeded in introducing, in barrels, and by other clandestine means, a body of Austrian soldiers, whom they concealed in their cellars, or other domestic offices, without exciting the least suspicion on the part of Glaris, and to render the deception more complete, were supplied, at their request, with an additional reinforcement of fifty men. Suddenly, on the eve of St Matthew, the Austrians, as preconcerted, mustered their forces, to the number of six thousand men, and directed their march upon Wesen—some by the lake, others by land—and while the town slept in apparent security, the citizens and soldiers, prepared for the occasion, waited the signal for throwing themselves upon the unsuspecting garrison, and putting all to the sword.

The moment the invaders had concentrated their strength under the walls, the signal for massacre was given—the town was illumined in an instant—torches were exhibited at every window—the streets were filled by a sudden rush of armed citizens hoisting the Austrian banner—the gates were thrown open—and a scene of indiscriminate slaughter extended itself into every avenue. Conrad of Au, a citizen of Uri, and commander of the Swiss garrison, together with thirty of his companions in arms, fell victims to the plot, while their survivors only effected their escape by throwing themselves from the town walls into the lake, and swimming to land. The tidings of this treachery and carnage spread through Glaris with the rapidity of lightning, and filled the minds of the confederates with horror. A handful of these brave men sprang forward with the standard of liberty, and hurried towards the frontier, upon which the Austrians were now advancing with their whole strength. Here the shepherds of Glaris gave them battle, and, by repeated skirmishes, kept them for several days at bay, but at last, as the snows were still deep in the mountain paths, and no reinforcements could reach them from Schwyz, they were compelled to make proposals for peace. These, however, were met with such haughty conditions on the part of Austria—terms so humiliating to the confederacy, that they resolved, few as they were, to maintain the struggle to the last man, and never to purchase peace at the price of freedom, and the annihilation of their ancient rights

Thus defeated in every attempt at honourable accommodation, the men of Glaris, under their captain Am-Buel, and numbering only two hundred, posted themselves close to Näfels, and waited the enemy's attack, who approached with six thousand men—a proportion of thirty to one. Seeing the fearful odds at which they had to defend their country, the force of Glaris, preparing for the worst, caused the women and children to be conveyed into the mountains, while messengers were despatched to Schwyz and Uri to claim assistance on the terms of the league. In the mean time the Austrian force succeeded in carrying the entrenchments at Näfels, and Am-Buel, whose strength had now reached five hundred, retreated towards the mountain of Ruti, which protected his rear, while the rocky ground in front offered an effectual obstruction to the enemy's cavalry. At the same time every symptom of disorder was increased among the latter by fragments of rock, which, dislodged from the heights, threw their ranks into confusion, and seconded the Swiss in maintaining the unequal struggle. The Austrians, nevertheless, pressed furiously on, and only redoubled their efforts as the obstacles increased. At last a shout, which seemed to shake the very mountains, caused a sudden panic in the enemy, whose infantry and cavalry, thrown into promiscuous confusion, rushed back from the scene of action, and, regardless of all authority, sought safety in flight. The shout, which had operated so powerfully in favour of the Swiss, was raised by a small detachment of thirty volunteers from Schwyz, who, in descending to the assistance of Buel, thus announced their approach, and the cause they had espoused.

Thus suddenly left in possession of the field, the men of Glaris continued the pursuit with terrible execution—reminding the Austrians, as the latter fell under their spears and iron clubs, of the massacre at Wesen, and the murder of Conrad. Above two thousand five hundred were killed in the field, and in the meadows and orchards, during their flight; while numbers plunged into the Linth, and there found a grave. The bridge of Wesen was broken down by the rush of the flying, and many of the infantry and cavaliers sinking under the weight of their armour, perished in the lake.

This battle was fought on the 9th of April, 1388; and, at the present day, the people of Glaris commemorate the victory on the first Thursday of that month, by pronouncing the names of the patriotic band who fell on the consecrated ground, as well as those who survived the battle of freedom.

On returning to Wesen* the traveller will find little within its walls to detain

* Some years ago, the very existence of Wesen was in jeopardy, owing to the periodical inundations caused during half a century by the waters of the Mag, and the vast quantity of *debris* which they brought down. The lake, by these means, acquired a height of ten feet above its former level; six hundred acres

him beyond a few hours at most. Its three churches and nunnery, nevertheless, have their devout and patriotic admirers; but the greatest treat for the stranger is the charming view from the windows of the Hôtel de l'Epée. Of the lake of Wallenstadt less has been said than of most others; for in a country where there is so much to command admiration, under every variety of scenery, the Wallensee is generally among the last visited, and loses by a comparison with those of Geneva, the four Cantons, or Zurich. Still it amply compensates for the absence of the beauty and sublimity which more especially characterise the latter, by charms peculiarly its own—

Its lonely shores, where from its mountain cave
The plunging cataract flings its cloud of foam,
And rocks, whose shadows slumber in the wave,
Bear on their crests the hardy natives' home —
These, nurtured in the blast, and taught to brave
The wintry tempest—ask, where'er they roam
In wealthier realms—What realm can scenes bestow
Like those the Wallensee's wild borders show? MS

The Serenbach, near Quentin, forms a series of falls of from twelve to sixteen hundred feet perpendicular; above these the Bayerhach descends with thundering precipitation, and both torrents unite in a narrow ravine—an extraordinary point of view, and which may be reached without much personal risk.

The breadth of the lake is nearly every where the same, and bounded on both sides, north and south, by lofty mountains, which rise perpendicularly from the water's edge to the height of six thousand feet. Its depth varies from four hundred to five hundred feet; its length four leagues, by one in breadth, with an elevation above the sea stated at three hundred feet, but probably more. It abounds in fish, particularly salmon, and rotelen (*salmo salvelinus*) and never freezes—a consequence, however, not of its high temperature, but of its depth, and the winds by which it is agitated. Of these the most impetuous is what the

of fields and meadow-pasture in the vicinity of Wallenstadt, nine hundred acres to the west, between Wesen, Urnen, and the Ziegelbruck, and between four and five thousand acres from the latter to the castle of Grynau, where the Linth enters the lake of Zurich, were changed into marshes, or entirely covered with water. The pernicious exhalations which arose from these districts affected the whole country, and gave rise to malignant fevers, which extended as far as Zurich, and threatened an annual accumulation of the malady. Had the same unpardonable negligence on the part of the administration to check the progress of this scourge continued fifty years longer, a space of six leagues square would have been converted into a marsh, the pestiferous miasmata from which would have made a desert of one-half of the northern division of Switzerland. Happily, in 1804, the attention of the Helvetic diet was directed to this important subject, and a decree passed, by which the Linth was to be carried into the lake by means of a canal, excavated from above Nâfels, and the channel of the Mag widened, and the bed of the Lammat deepened, till it entered the lake of Zurich. This great undertaking has been completed, and produced the happiest results to the health and property of the inhabitants.

boatmen call Blätliſer, or north wind, which, descending from the mountains' crest, acts with peculiar violence upon the lake, and produces that short irregular swell, which is often attended with considerable danger—for, if overtaken by a sudden storm, there are very few spots on the south side, and on the north side none whatever, except at the village of Quentin, where a landing can be effected. It is, therefore, owing to the scantiness of its harbours, rather than to the severity of the storms, that the navigation of this lake is considered dangerous. The boatmen, however, are perfectly "weather-wise," and rarely miscalculate the atmospheric transitions. They are also under excellent regulations, and become subject to severe penalties upon the least infringement of the established rules; these are, to ply close in upon the south side when the weather is doubtful, so that, if necessary, they may pull ashore; never to put out during a storm; and to provide themselves with new boats every three years. By these cautionary enactments, accidents on the lake are very rare. Amidst the inaccessible clefts of the rocks which enclose this lake, the *limmerghey*, to which we have already alluded, hatches her brood for future depredation upon the kids of Glaris and Appenzell.

During the long period that the Venetians monopolized the trade with the Levant, this route was exceedingly frequented, and the mere transport of merchandise from Wallenstadt to Wesen employed nearly the whole male population. A great number of boats are still kept afloat for the same purpose; and the interchange of manufactures between Italy, Germany, and the north of Switzerland, is, a source of very considerable profit to the inhabitants. Convenient warehouses have been built for the reception of goods at either extremity of the lake; and the scenes of embarking and disembarking, with the various methods of land carriage, are full of bustle and animation. The navigation of the lake is under the inspection of an officer expressly appointed for that purpose, and elected by the joint authority of Glaris and St. Gall.

CANTONS OF ST. GALL AND APPENZELL.

THE small town of Wallenstadt was nearly reduced to ashes in 1799, but was speedily rebuilt, and so much improved, as to lessen our regret for the catastrophe. The malignant fevers to which it was formerly a prey, have



G. H. R. H. H. H.

U. H. H. H. H.

materially diminished since the completion of the canal to which we have already alluded. The marshes have been drained, and the frightful inundations to which it was periodically exposed, happily obviated. The inhabitants are apparently on the increase, and subsist by means of fishing, the produce of the dairy, and the transport of merchandize *

From this to Sargans, a distance of three leagues, there is nothing of paramount interest, unless where we again join the great route of the Rhenthal, which connects Italy with the Lake of Constance. Since 1811, considerable improvements have taken place in this small town, and all the wooden houses, consumed in the frightful conflagration of that year, have been rebuilt in stone. A point near the castle, the former residence of the bailiff, commands a superb view over the whole valley. The vine is here cultivated with success, and the inhabitants carry on a small trade between Coire and the German frontier. Not far from this, is the best iron mine in Switzerland.

But there is nothing in this canton, nor probably in the whole confederacy, which strikes a foreigner with such astonishment as the Baths of PFEFFERS, about two leagues from this, and which, being less accessible than any others in the confederacy, and but rarely visited by our countrymen, we shall describe as minutely as our limits will permit.

It has always been a measure of sound policy in the monastic system, that wherever an abbey was to be founded, some foundation of future revenue should be laid at the same time, by devising such means as should establish a pilgrimage in its favour, and engage the contributions of the faithful. For this end, the particular merits to which these establishments laid claim were as various as the effects reported in their favour. A provision for all spiritual wants was the allurements most generally held out, for as the profligate and credulous form two of the great divisions of mankind, they rightly concluded that a great majority would be thus secured. Hence Einsiedeln on the Swiss, and Varese on the Italian, side of the Alps, have derived vast revenues from the daily flux and reflux of pilgrims, who every year spend a portion of their savings at these altars, in the purchase of absolution or indulgence. The abbey of Pfeffers, however, has made its appeal to mankind with promises chiefly of temporal blessings—the removal or mitigation of those ills that flesh is heir to—and while one cries, Come, behold “the sacred image,”—and another, Come, touch the canonized bones,—and a third, Come, and be relieved of your burdens of sin,—Pfeffers exclaims, Come,

* The legal fare for an open boat with two rowers, from Wallenstadt to Wesen is two florins with twenty or thirty kreutzers in addition as a compliment to the boatmen. A covered boat, well protected against the weather and with the same number of oars, costs about a florin additional.

that we may minister to the body, and blunt the edge of suffering by immersion in our baths!—This invitation has met with a very general response during the last six centuries,—a response which, in the present day, has acquired new force, new votaries, and a new catalogue of “modern instances” in support of the waters and their hereditary virtues.

As medicinal compounds may be very salubrious to the constitution, although offensive to the sense of taste, so nature, in the present instance, has shut up her salutiferous spring in a composition which must shock the eye and excite the imagination of every pilgrim who would partake of its healing qualities. It is the golden fleece guarded by a frightful dragon—

“A fountain of health in the bosom of horror!”

The spring was known and appreciated at the early period of 1038, but owing to its extreme difficulty and danger of access, was soon neglected, and at last forgotten for nearly two centuries, and only turned to account after its *second* discovery in 1240, when a hunter, says the tradition, while risking his neck for the possessing of a raven's nest, saw the vapour oozing out of the abyss, and made known his discovery for the public benefit. The first patients who descended to the source, made the experiment at the imminent risk of life, and remained in a state of immersion, or exposed to the vapours, for several days together. During the fourteenth century, the only means of access were through a perforation in the rock, communicating with the spring by ladders of ropes,—a method of approach full of danger. In 1420, the first building was erected for the reception of invalids, but the accommodation appears to have been wretched. About twenty years later, a bridge was constructed at the fearful height of 540 feet above the channel of the Tamina, and 130 feet long; but this was entirely destroyed by fire in 1629, and never re-built.

These thermal waters take their source in a gorge of the Tamina—the horrors of which defy alike the power of imagination, and the pen of description. They are, after their kind, the most dismal, in point of situation, on which the human eye can gaze, and open to the stranger a region of which he feels that no adequate report had reached him, and compared with which, the wildest scenery of romance seems tamed and softened down into simplicity. The very expressions to which we are accustomed to give utterance amidst the sublimer spectacles of nature, are here silenced by a sentiment of awe which paralyzes the nerves of speech—shows us the poverty of words, compels us to halt, and gaze, and meditate in mute astonishment, and with feelings as new to

ourselves as the scenes by which they are called forth. As we continue our approach, the depth of the ravine darkens below, the light from above diminishes, the attributes of chaos multiply, the ministers of death, so to speak, beset us on all sides, cut off retreat, and seem hurrying us forward to the verge of primeval night. The descent seems insecure and precipitous, on the opposite bank of the torrent, a space of fifty yards across, the shattered marble walls of the chasm shoot up vertically from the torrent's bed, to a height of nearly 700 feet, losing their summits in the sky, sprinkled with pine, elm, and maple trees, and festooned here and there with the bright Alpine rose, clinging to the imperfect crevices, where no other vegetation can find nourishment. The roar of the Tamina deepens as we approach the brink, and boiling downward, dashes the white spray from its tide, and rushes like a stream of lightning through a midnight sky.

Passing onward and beyond the baths, we enter the penetralia of this wild scene—a scene which is, perhaps, without competitor among the many savage regions to which the human foot has found access, and the painter a subject which may almost defy the power of his art.

The path by which the adventurous traveller is forwarded to the source, may be described as similar to that by which the souls of Mussulmen are said to make their perilous transit into paradise. A most subtle bridge, formed of narrow planks, supported on wedges driven into the natural rock, and running into the gorge, a distance of between six and seven hundred yards—like a scaffolding fastened to the wall and suspended over the torrent, which foams and roars at a depth of forty feet—is the medium of communication between this hideous recess and the external world. The width of the gorge at this point is about ten yards, but it becomes narrower as it descends, while the lateral walls of rock, contorted, cleft, and torn into the most extraordinary and fantastic shapes, tower up to a height of several hundred feet, and then projecting forward, one towards the other, and rising as they contract, meet at length in the form of a vast dome, the centre of which is little short of 300 feet in height. The depth of the gorge is estimated at 700 feet, by 200 in breadth, but, in some places, it does not amount to more than a twentieth of that extent. The feeble and glimmering light, with which this gulf is visited, even at noon, gradually disappears as we plunge downward into the abyss, where the cold and dripping atmosphere, surcharged with moisture, chills the blood, and contributes not a little to enhance the accumulating horror of the place. In our progress along the scaffolding, the opposite rocks project so much at certain points as completely to overhang the bridge, and compel us to stoop and proceed in that attitude—like pilgrims towards the shrine. At other points, again, they recede so much as to leave us no

flanking support; so that, depending upon the nice balance of the body, and caution in advancing along the narrow and slippery plank, beneath which this Acheron of the Alps rolls in foamy precipitation, some courage at least is necessary, and self-possession indispensable. As a preventive, the guides recommend the stranger to perform this expedition between two men carrying a pole, one at each end, which thus serves as a parapet, or hand-rail, interposed betwixt him and the precipice. Unfortunately, however, due precaution has been too often neglected, and a foolish display of hardihood has led to most lamentable results; for there is but a step to destruction, and rescue is impossible.

The cavern in which the principal source is collected, measures twenty-four feet long, nine in height, and four in breadth, and still shows the holes where beams were originally fastened between the sides for supporting the primitive cabins erected for the accommodation of those who resorted to this dismal solitude in pursuit of health, or alleviation of suffering. The steam which issues from the fissures, and floats in clouds in the cavern, seems to point to the frontier of the extremes of heat and cold—the contiguous regions of frost and fire.

Here the subsiding waters have left the most extraordinary evidence of that action by which, in the long lapse of centuries, these immense rocks have been sawn asunder, and a channel scooped out of the solid marble several hundred feet in depth. It is curious to observe in their sides excavations of great dimensions hollowed out by whirlpools or *cortices* of the torrent during its progress through the subjacent rock, and the opposition which made it recoil upon itself, and converted its impetuous course into a slow but powerful engine, which has left, among other witnesses of its operation, one of the most beautiful grottos in existence, and several feet above the present level of the torrent. It is scooped out of the solid marble, thirty-five feet across, twenty-four feet deep, and twenty-eight feet in height.

Those who do not venture the whole extent of this passage, would do well to advance at least forty or fifty paces in the direction of the source, and then, seated at their ease, indulge the contemplation suggested by the dismal gorge which yawns full upon their view. Between twelve and half-past one o'clock, when the weather is fine, is the favourable moment for witnessing a sort of phantasmagoria peculiar to the place, and caused by the fitful and partial distribution of the vertical sun's rays, which penetrating at various points, making darkness visible—and dragging, so to speak, the secrets of chaos into day, exhibit its features in more defined, but more appalling colours. Should a party at the same time be returning from the source, the picture becomes one of the most extraordinary imaginable—realizing one of the dreams of

heathen mythology The figures, at first barely distinguishable, and flitting like shadows in the obscurity, suddenly pass into a stream of light, and seem converted into substance, as they advance, they are again lost in the darkness, and, alternately vanishing and re-appearing, present the idea of a troop of ghosts hovering on the boundaries of life and death

The Baths, built in 1704, consist of two principal houses, like barracks, joined together by corridors four hundred feet in length, affording accommodation for several hundred guests, who are not over fastidious on the score of lodging, and willing to receive moderate comforts on moderate terms Luxuries are not to be expected—a table sufficient for the hungry—attendance more friendly than officious—a simple couch, enough to refresh the weary, and a bath at command, are all the recommendations of the place, and, judging from the multitude of visitors, sufficiently attractive Some of the apartments, and particularly that called the Prince's Bath, offer superior accommodation Those which are proverbially the best, are on the south-east and north west corners of the two houses, the latter exposure commands the gorge, and, during the night, furnishes such a lullaby from the Tamna, as will scare away the night mare from the soundest sleeper The storms which break over this gorge, but without troubling its repose, are peculiarly grand and impressive—more particularly so during the night, when the thunders seem to answer one another from Alp to Alp, and the foaming cataracts, as they gush from the precipices, are illumined with flashes of lightning

In the morning, as the sun struggles with the dense vapours which now and then obscure his beam, the partial distribution of light is productive of the beautiful phenomena of iris and rainbows—all of the most brilliant colours In winter, too, when the numerous cascades, which were wont to stream or trickle from the rocks, are frozen into solid masses of ice, and the speed and even sound of their course seemingly smothered and arrested, so that the rocks in many places look as if cased in crystal—the scene is exceedingly imposing And, again, when a thaw succeeds, and the icy chun is removed, and the torrents descend with redoubled fury, accompanied with the frequent and terrific crash of detached frozen masses, the effect is one of the most striking that can well be imagined It is in a situation like this that night closes in with peculiar horror, and where, from the myriad of stars that stud the broad horizon, one or two only find their way into this dreary abyss, where the longest day consists of five hours, and the remaining nineteen are divided between the glimmerings of twilight, and Tartarean night At Midsummer, only, the sun is visible, from a quarter past nine till four o'clock in the afternoon,

in the end of July and August, from eleven o'clock till three; and in winter hardly ever.

The basement story of this caravansera, as it may be termed, is occupied by the batbs, several of which are placed in each room, and hired at the rate of from four to ten florins a week; but an early application is necessary, addressed to the Director of the Baths, when the visitor is desirous of securing the best accommodation; unless he do so, he may have to put up with very indifferent comforts. The guests dine together at the *table d'hôte*, at the primitive hour of eleven, and sup at six—hours which, in the time of Elizabeth, called the families of England together, and are still, with small variation, adhered to in the domestic arrangements of Germany.

The amusements of the place partake, in some degree, of the sombre and contemplative—in unison with the scenery—and such as may excite, without wasting the animal spirits. Billiards is a game which has found access even to monasteries, and is here the prominent resource in wet weather. Still better, however, are the facilities and incentives to exercise in the open air, with charming *reposoirs* in the beech and maple plantations,—facilities which might be still further increased at small expense. A comfortable chapel, open for the mutual accommodation of Protestant and Catholic, forms a liberal and pleasing feature in the place. During the week, two days are set apart for balls or concerts, to which visitors from the neighbourhood are accustomed to resort; but, as is usual on most parts of the continent, the principal amusements take place on Sunday.

The laboratory belonging to the establishment, and under the surveillance of the resident physician and surgeon, is well supplied with every article of ordinary request in the pharmaceutic art. One of the most curious objects to the eye of a stranger, is the crane, by means of which, as a mechanical power, the daily supplies are lowered from the rocks to the inn—a depth of six hundred and sixty-four feet.

The Känzlein, the Bazaar, kept by an Italian, the solitude, and a grotto, beyond the bridge of the Tamina, are the points of rendezvous to which the company repair for exercise and amusement. The latter of these is highly picturesque, and viewed under the influence of a mid-day sun, looks like an enchanted bower, reserved as a retreat for moonlight elves, or a hall where the demon of the gorge might hold his council. Here, seated under the shadow of rocks, whose bold and leafless pinnacles pierce the sky, and like the walls of a prison, exclude every image of the external world, the scene is most striking, solemn, and effective, and presents an assemblage of features which at once appal and

fascinate the spectator Here and there the rhododendron flings its graceful and glowing festoons along the face of the bleak rock—emblem of life and beauty bursting through the marble of death, and suspended, seemingly, between heaven and earth This beautiful rose of the Alps is in full flower in the month of August, and flourishes where all its tribe would be frozen Along side, the frantic Tamina rolls deep, dark, and rapidly, crested with foam, and accompanied by that wild concert of echoes from cavern and precipice, which awoke with the first burst of the torrent, and shall never sleep again till the last drop of that torrent is dried up All other sounds rise, fluctuate, and fail The hurricane comes forth, vents its desolating influence, and again subsides,—the clouds are rent—the thunder bursts over head—the winds rush forth in their fury, and for a period, tumult, and terror, and darkness, prevail, but these also subside—tranquillity returns—the evening sun again appears, and the stars sparkle from a serene sky, but the torrent is eternal—a momentary pause in its roar would be the signal of dissolution, and silence in the gorge of Pfeffers would strike more dismay than the thunder of the loudest storm

Opposite this point, the rocks, draped with the bright green of intermingling beech and maple trees, contrast pleasingly with the dark bleak structures from which they spring On the left is the deep Cimmerian gorge, from which the river, bursting its dreary barrier, boils along its rocky bed—stunning the ear with its roar, and causing a sort of vertigo as the eye follows its course—

Small and dark as fabled Acheron
 But clothed in horrors fable hath not feigned
 While clouds as from some mighty Phlegethon
 Surge upward from the boiling cavern dra ned—
 Regions of fire—where neath the soowzy zone
 The lake steams fierce and, overflowing flings
 Through yawning clefts its hot unebbing springs —MS

These fine weather resources are much frequented by all who thus, with the power of locomotion, possess the means of health Happily for the visitors, the pernicious vice of gambling has not yet penetrated this Alpine gorge, and the corrupting games of roulette, rouge et noir, and ecarte, so prevalent at other baths, have found neither votaries nor victims at Pfeffers As a substitute in bad weather, an excellent sheltered promenade extends in front of the inns, and there, or in the capacious salles a manger, invalids may indulge the same salutary exercise, while the lightnings flash, and the thunder roars unheeded, and almost unheard The atmosphere here is not subject to those sudden transitions which so powerfully affect invalids in other

situations. Walled in on all sides by marble ramparts, this retreat may be compared with the well-known property of some cathedrals, such as St. Peter's, which, by their massive structure, embrace an atmosphere peculiar to themselves, the temperature of which is so mild and equable, as often to surprise those who enter them at periods of atmospheric change. It is a remarkable fact, that when the plague of 1611 made such terrible ravages in the country, that whole villages were depopulated, and even dogs, cats, and birds, fell dead under the poisoned atmosphere, these Baths served as a perfect sanctuary to refugees, with whom they were crowded, even during the winter, and never betrayed a symptom of contagion.

The healing properties to which these waters lay claim are numerous, and supported on the best of all authority—that of experience, and the successive testimony of a hundred generations. The springs are periodical, and appear and disappear indefinitely, according to the peculiarities of the season. In summer the supply varies from one hundred to two hundred gallons per minute, with a temperature generally of 100° Fahr., and never below 96°; in the baths it is uniformly at 100°. Its properties are not detected by colour, taste, or smell; the water is extremely limpid, leaves no deposit after being kept for years, and in specific lightness is less than that of Bala lake, in Wales—which, with this exception, is the lightest, probably, in Europe. It is employed in the double capacity of a bath and as a beverage, and apportioned, under medical superintendence, to the complaint and constitution of the patient. Those who have tasted the Ems water, will form a pretty correct notion of that of Pffeers. The diseases in which it is chiefly employed, are rheumatism, glandular and cutaneous affections; but as the water has already obtained a high reputation for its efficacy in these, it is now looked on as a panacea in the whole range of therapeutics;—and to enumerate all the complaints in which it is said to be a remedy, would be to enumerate almost every disease incident to humanity; like some indulgent friend, who, from having relieved one case of distress, is expected to extend the same liberality to all.

The time for remaining in the bath varies, according to circumstances, from two to ten hours, or upwards; and, strange as it may seem, the patients who resort in great numbers to Pffeers on the Saturday, spend the greater portion of the interval between that and Monday in a state of immersion.

The season commences in June, and ends by the middle of September, at which period the springs begin to diminish, and disappear in October. The usual flow is from spring to autumn; but, occasionally, it has continued through the whole winter. The specific gravity is as 10·104 to distilled water

at 10,000. The temperature at the source, and according to season, varies from 30° to $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of Reaumur = 99° — 101° Fahr.; its taste is insipid, from the fact of its containing no carbonic acid. As it gushes from the source, a faint smell of sulphur is sometimes perceptible; and to the touch it is soapy, and deposits on the rocks a bright yellow clayey sediment, (used as a surgical dressing,) consisting of various earths common to micaceous mountains, and producing by analysis, muriatic, argillaceous, and silicious earths, with a small portion of sulphuret of iron.* The medicinal properties of this water, are, in a state of extreme dilution, literally in homœopathic doses; but their virtues are developed in numerous cases which, reasoning on pharmaceutic principles, it is impossible to explain. In the great laboratory of nature, however, the chemical department is conducted on principles which alike defy competition and scrutiny, and give efficacy to what, in the hands of the most skilful physician, would fail in the intention.†

Of the environs it is impossible to speak in terms of sufficient admiration. The Galanda-schau, or panorama from that mountain, and Graue-horner, are second to nothing of the kind in this wonderful region; but the station at Valenz, surrounded by gardens and meadows, is that which concentrates, in an especial manner, all that is sublime, and beautiful, and romantic, and picturesque, within the limits of the enclosing Alps. Near the Ahhey is also a fine point of view, commanding the valley of the Rhine, from Coire to the Lake of Constance, the romantic heights of Bregenz, and the island of Lindau. But as it would far exceed our limits to give even an outline of this magnificent diorama, we must content ourselves with having touched the more prominent features,

* The last analysis of this water gives the following results:—

	GRAINS
Muriate of Magnesia and extractive Matter	0 16
Muriate of Soda	0 21
Resinous substance	0 06
Sulphate of Soda	0 62
Sulphate of Magnesia	0 37
Carbonate of Lime	0 32
Carbonate of Magnesia	0 87

† The best medical notice which we possess of "the Baths of Pfeffers," is a pamphlet, published by Dr JAMES JOHNSON—as the result of a personal visit to them in the course of last autumn—where the reader will find a most animated and graphic description of the scenery, with a concise and scientific notice of the spring, which, much as we regret that our limits do not permit us to quote them in this place, have already appeared in the *Medico Chirurgical Review*, No. XLIII.—a work conducted under the auspices of Dr. Johnson, and long established in the confidence of every professional reader. The best German works on the same subject, are those by Dr. Ruysch and Dr. Kaiser, the latter published in 1822.

leaving the picture to be filled up by the reader's personal recollections, or the vivid delineations with which the present text is accompanied.

The Abbey of Pfeffers is about a league from the Baths, and is approached by the natural bridge already described, and a path cut out of the rock, forming a ladder, or staircase, of two hundred and fifty feet. This passage is exactly beside the source, on a wooded precipice, and at its highest point discovers a magnificent prospect of the Galanda, which, from that circumstance, takes its name of Galanda-schau. This Benedictine Abbey stands about seven hundred and eighty feet higher than the Baths, and is, therefore, not less than two thousand eight hundred and ten feet above the level of the sea. It was built in the year 720, after St. Pirminian's arrival in these desolate regions to preach the gospel to the Rhucantians, an aboriginal people of the country. At the close of the twelfth century, it had become so celebrated as a monastic shrine, that its abbot, Rudolph de Montfort, was created a prince of the empire—a title which remained hereditary till the revolution of 1798, when the sword was ennobled at the expense of the crosier. Its sovereign demesne was extensive, and embraced Sargans, and the whole valley of the Tamina.

In the middle of the seventeenth century, the ancient convent was burnt down, and replaced by the buildings of the present day, which are partially cased in marble. The church, which combines elegance with simplicity, possesses several valuable paintings as altar-pieces, and eight columns of black marble veined with white. The library is considerable, and contains several MSS. and other documents, illustrative of the early history of the country. Near the church, on an eminence, called Mount Tabor, is the magnificent point of view already noticed. The village of Pfeffers contains a population of between three and four hundred, but who have never recovered from the effects of the revolutionary epoch.

This retired and almost inaccessible region suffered greatly during the revolution, and by repeated levies and exactions from the hostile marches and counter-marches of the French and Austrians, was completely exhausted in its resources, and its inhabitants reduced to the horrors of famine. As a single instance of the oppressive measures to which the inhabitants were compelled to submit, it is stated, that Dr. Hager, a physician, residing at Ragatz, had seven thousand of the French soldiers billeted upon him in the course of two years. In the valley of Kalfens, now uninhabited, human bones of gigantic proportions are from time to time found in a spot where some early village and church are supposed to have stood. According to tradition, this valley was inhabited by a race of Patagonians. Similar discoveries have been

made in the valleys of Glaris. Returning to Sargans, we now prosecute our route along the left bank of the Rhine. On the right, opposite Ragatz, is the town of Mayenfeldt, the capital of a fertile valley of that name. The remains of an ancient castle, supposed to have been raised by the Franks, are shown to strangers, for whom, nevertheless, its attractions are few. A short distance below the town, there was formerly a place where they washed for gold, a portion of which was found in the sand of the Rhine.* This river diminishes in beauty as it increases in volume, or rather, in laying aside its terrors, assumes new attractions, by watering a territory still beautiful in itself, and doubly so, by the embellishments with which the "superb Rhine" varies the picture. A few words respecting its history may be not unacceptable to some of our readers, as we follow its course through Werdenberg and Alstetten to St. Gall.

The three sources of the Rhine—the anterior, middle, and posterior—take their rise in the canton of the Grisons. The first originates near the St. Gothard, from a small lake and a stream from the glacier of Mount Badus, and receiving many torrents in its descent, traverses the valley of Tavetsch, and at Disentis joins the middle branch, which passes out of the lake of Dim, in the Val-Cadellia. Continuing its course in a north-eastern direction, it receives the tribute of the Gleoner at Ilantz.

The posterior branch is chiefly remarkable for its source, and the savage country through which it rushes with inconceivable rapidity, and which has been already partially described in our passage of the Bernardino and Via-Mala. In its course it receives the waters of the Aversa, the Nolla, and Albula. At their confluence at Reichenau, the two branches of the Rhine form almost a right angle—one running north, and the other west; and from this point the united stream becomes navigable for heavy rafts. At Coire, it receives the Plessour, and at Malans the Landquart, both copious rivers. Here it quits the Grison territory near the acile of St. Lucie, and flowing north, forms the frontier between Germany and the canton of St. Gall. Near Feldkirch, it is further recruited by the waters of the Ill, and enters the lake of Constance at Rhineck.

The valley of the Rhine, thus embellished and fertilized by one of the most magnificent rivers in Europe, extends from the ancient barony of Saxe to the lake of Constance—a distance of eight leagues, and contains a population

* Gold, in former times, and even at the close of the last century, was found in considerable quantity in the bed of the Rhine. In the country of Baden alone, during 1755 and 1771, 24,000 florins were collected.

of from twenty-three to twenty-five thousand. The resources of the country consist in agriculture, the breed of cattle, linen and cotton manufactures—the vine and fruit trees, both of which are highly productive. Apples and pears are employed as in Devonshire, and the cider and perry of the Rheinthal maintains a character not inferior to that of its wine, which resembles Moselle. Indian corn is very general, but the number and productiveness of their orchards are features in their rural economy which surprise a stranger. There are many families whose sole property is a certain number of fruit trees planted on the waste lands of Eisenried, which were divided in 1770, and thereby opened a new territory of several leagues extent. From the date of his marriage, the poorest inhabitant receives a property which augments, by little and little, till it amounts to seven or eight acres of arable and meadow land. The excellent management by which this measure was accomplished for the public benefit, is due to MM. Groh and Wurstemberger, formerly commissioners of the Rheinthal, and does them greater honour than if crowns had been laid at their feet. The Catholics and Protestants are nearly equal in number, and in many places the same church serves for the worship of both congregations—evinced a mutual spirit of toleration which cannot be too highly praised. In the upper portion of the valley there are extensive peat-bogs; and in the lower, excellent free-stone quarries, from which a profitable exportation is carried on, particularly at Altstetten, Thal, Stade, and St. Marguerita.